



yourmaidstone

THE NEWSPAPER FOR MAIDSTONE, MALLING, LARKFIELD AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES

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Issue No 26

Available from Wednesday,
March 5, 2008

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www.kentattractions.co.uk

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www.bankofengland.co.uk/museum

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www.buzzlinestravel.co.uk

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www.handpicked.co.uk/chilstonpark

THE CO- OPERATIVE TRAVEL

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www.costacruises.co.uk

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CROWHURST PARK

STAND 11
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www.crowhurstpark.co.uk

CUNARD LINE

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Cunard Line is one of the world's most recognised brand names with a classic British heritage. If travel is meant to be savored, then crossing the oceans should be a majestic experience, not merely a hop across the pond. For travelers of this persuasion, only one name evokes the pleasures of a golden era: Cunard Line. www.cunardline.com

DISCOVER FOLKESTONE

STAND 14
'Discover Folkestone, Hythe and Romney Marsh' is the brand name of the not-for-profit organisation set up by Folkestone Town Centre Management which is tasked with tourism marketing, and which is supported by Kent County Council, Shepway District Council, Folkestone Town Council and the business community. We produce an annual guide which provides information for visitors about accommodation, attractions and things to do.
www.discoverfolkestone.co.uk

DISCOVER GRAVEHAM

STAND 46
Resting place of Pocahontas and home of Charles Dickens, this Thames-side borough is noted for its defence heritage, exceptional countryside, marshes and villages. Experience the Discover Gravesham Heritage Festival, 17 May to 1 June 2008. The festival programme appeals to all ages and is available at our stand.
www.discovergravesham.co.uk

DISCOVER JERSEY

STAND 41
New for Manston this season we are offering flight only and fantastic package deals direct to Jersey every Saturday from 10th May to 6th September.

EAGLE HEIGHTS WILDLIFE PARK

STAND 3
One of the UK's largest bird of prey centres, with a collection of approximately 150 raptors. Flying demonstrations take place throughout the day. There is an increasing collection of reptiles and mammals and new, this year, is an African Experience with Savannah the Cheetah Cub. For detailed information please do visit our website:
www.eagleheights.co.uk

ENGLISH HERITAGE

STAND 8
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www.english-heritage.org.uk

FAVERSHAM ENTERPRISE PARTNERS

STAND 58
Faversham a quirky Medieval Market Town, surrounded by a satisfying mix of rich downlands, captivating villages, intriguing marshes . For enriching short stays and family days out Faversham has an unparalleled collection of local restaurants and attractions www.faversham.org

FRED OLSEN CRUISE LINES

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STAND 66
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www.groombridge.co.uk

HEART OF KENT

STAND 12
The Heart of Kent is centred around the towns and villages of Ashford, Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells. It's home to some of Kent's most splendid castles and stately homes - Leeds and Hever Castles, Ightham Mote, Knole and Chartwell and boasts some of the best gardens - Sissinghurst, Godinton, Penshurst Place, Scotney and Hole Park. www.visitheartofkent.com

HEVER CASTLE

STAND 64
Fun for all the family, at this 13th century moated castle, the childhood home of Anne Boleyn. Including beautiful furniture, paintings, and tapestries. Magnificent gardens with 30 acres of classical and natural landscape, boating lake, fountains, cascades, topiary, yew maze, water maze. Miniature Model Houses, Adventure playground, shops and restaurants.
www.hevercastle.co.uk

THE HISTORIC DOCKYARD

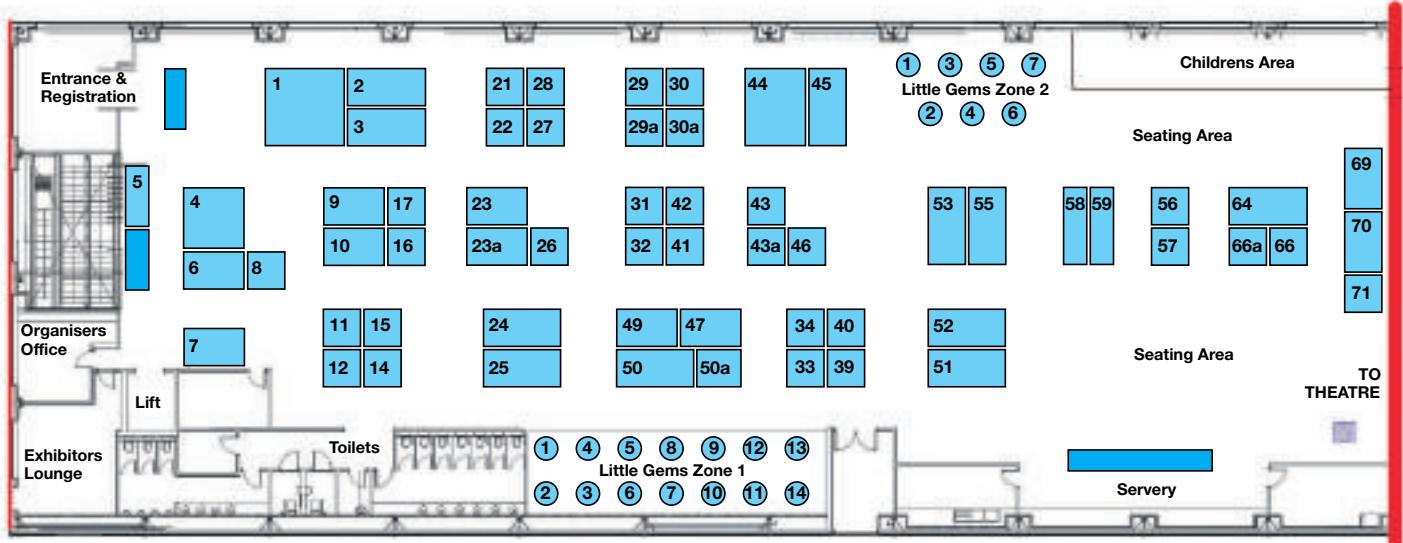
STAND 52
Visit the stunning 80 acre site and discover over 400 years of maritime history as you explore the most complete dockyard of the Age of Sail and 'meet' characters from the past as our costumed guides bring this spectacular maritime heritage site alive! www.thedockyard.co.uk

HOLIDAY INN HOTELS

STAND 24
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STAND 40
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www.mercure-uk.com



Sunday 16 March 2008 at



THE NEWSPAPER FOR MAIDSTONE, MALLING, LARKFIELD AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES

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SEE OUR NEW
SCHOOLS PAGE

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OUR ROADS TOP OF THE DANGER LIST

'If these deaths had been caused by gas explosions or collapsed buildings, there would be a massive outcry'

MAIDSTONE is the place you are most likely to have a car crash in the county, according to a new survey.

Road safety in the borough is one of the biggest concerns for councillors after the worrying statistics were revealed in the report carried out for Kent County Council.

It revealed there were 435 incidents on our roads in last year, 14 more than 2006. Nine people died and 64 of the accidents were classified as "serious".

It makes Maidstone's roads the most dangerous in the county and the

■ BY LAUREN MUMFORD

report has prompted a complete review of safety on our roads.

The figures were made worse by comparison with our neighbouring borough, Tonbridge and Malling, which had 119 fewer crashes.

Councillor Tony Harwood called it a scandal.

He said: "I am appalled by the worsening trend in fatal accidents, with numbers increasing threefold in the Borough since 2005."

"If these deaths had been caused by gas explosions or collapsed buildings,

there would be a massive outcry and everything would be done to make sure it didn't happen again.

"But because these tragedies happened on our roads, they are accepted and not recognised as the shocking scandal they are. That is totally wrong."

The meeting also heard from Clare Burtwell, whose friend Perri McIlwraith, 17, was killed in a horrific road accident on the A26 between Barming and Teston in May last year.

She asked council officials to think about ways they could make that stretch of road safer and to ask if they would write to relevant cabinet members at KCC in the hope that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



OLYMPIC GAMES A VOLLEY GOOD SHOW

MAIDSTONE looks set to be home to the Olympic beach volleyball event in 2012, it was announced this week.

The USA's Olympic champion Misty May, pictured, may no longer be the world number one in four years time, but the sport has proved a massive draw since it became an official event in 2004.

As part of the 2012 Olympics, Maidstone Leisure Centre looks set to be the beach volleyball host while Sutton Valence School is being considered for five events, including archery and fencing.

They are among 36 places in Kent in the running for Olympic events.

FULL STORY ON PAGE 3



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1 Band My Life In The Making talk to Yourkenttv about their history. See the leisure channel @ Yourkenttv.co.uk



2 February's Kent business round-up with our business editor Tony Patey. See the business channel @ Yourkenttv.co.uk



3 Motoring guru Steve Loader checks out the new Land Rover Freelander. See the motoring channel @ Yourkenttv.co.uk

SEE OUR SISTER PAPERS KENT ON SUNDAY AND THE SATURDAY EDITION FOR ALL THE WEEKEND'S COUNTY NEWS AND SPORT

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Printed by Newsfax

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media

Blackout for businesses is green dream

■ BY LAUREN MUMFORD

A NEW scheme which will ensure shops and offices are in darkness overnight is being considered in a bid to go green.

Officials from Maidstone council and Town Centre Management are discussing ways businesses which aren't used through the night can cut back on the amount of electricity they use to help combat climate change.

Initial talks with organisations and businesses are already underway and the next meeting is planned for the end of March.

Environmental councillor Tony Harwood said: "We can not go on wasting electricity. I am very keen to tackle this issue as quickly as I can and providing there are no problems, I can't see why it couldn't be put in place overnight."

Encourage

Town Centre Management has joined a new Government scheme called Business Climate Change Champion and has started making changes in its own office, like turning off computers at the end of the day and using lighting when necessary.

"We feel if every one of us did a bit to help save energy then little bits of the jigsaw will begin to make up the big picture of the puzzle," centre manager Bill Moss said.

TCM exclusively revealed to Yourmaidstone last month its plan to make the county town plastic bag free by April next year. This new lighting scheme is seen by council officials as the next logical step to make Maidstone a greener town.

Only last week Marks & Spencer announced it will charge customers 5p for plastic bags to encourage them to reduce the number of carriers they use and to raise money for environmental charity, Groundwork.

The charity will use the money to



BLACK OUT: The new initiative hopes to see businesses turn off all their lights at night

create or improve 'greener living spaces' such as parks, play areas and gardens in local areas.

"Tackling energy use should be part two in making Maidstone a more sustainable town and the fact we are a county town will be an incentive for other authorities to follow our lead," Cllr Harwood said.

This initiative follows a visit from shadow leader of the House of Commons Simon Hughes, who praised the council for its environmental initiatives.

Invicta FM and Meridian television have also teamed up to raise awareness on climate change and have set up Earth Hour, an event where businesses across the county will switch off their lights at 8pm on March 29 for an hour.

Retailers already signed up include Strawberry Moons in Maidstone and Canterbury Castle – organisers have also received enquiries from Leeds Castle and Shepherd Neame.

The meeting between Town Centre Management and the council is being held later this month to discuss the future of the proposed scheme.

• **Yourmaidstone is backing the campaign Earth Hour on March 29 between 8pm and 9pm when everyone is asked to switch off their lights to save energy and send a highlight the dangers of global warming. Full details next week.**

yourmaidstone NEWS IN BRIEF

Leeds Castle host for Kent bravery awards

UNSGNED heroes were praised at a lavish awards ceremony for their outstanding acts of bravery and achievement.

Police staff and members of the public were recognised for their heroic efforts at the annual Kent police Area Commanders Awards which was held at Leeds Castle last night.

For full story and pictures go to our website Yourmaidstone.co.uk.

New bosses in charge at 'superbug' Trust

THREE new non-executive directors have been appointed to the board of Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust.

Sylvia Denton, Anthony Jones and Philip Wynn Owen will join the board from tomorrow to help take the trust forward.

They will replace non-executive directors who resigned in the wake of the superbug scandal.

For full story see our website Yourmaidstone.co.uk.

Fremlins Walk taken over by petting farm

SHOPPERS will be joined by some 'eggstra' special guests this Easter at Fremlin Walk.

The shopping centre will be welcoming some rabbits, sheep, goats, geese, ducks and guinea pigs to the centre between Friday and Sunday, March 14-16 in its own petting farm.

Children joining in with the excitement will receive a special free large foil-wrapped Easter egg. For more information visit www.fremlinwalk.co.uk.

Officers target goals instead of criminals

POLICE officers will be tackling more than just crime this weekend in a bid to raise money for people suffering with terminal illnesses.

A team of officers will be taking on Maidstone Housing Trust in a charity football match this Saturday to raise money for Heart of Kent Hospice.

The event is due to kick-off at Kent Police Headquarters on Sutton Road at 10:30am. For more information or to buy raffle tickets call 01622 604391.

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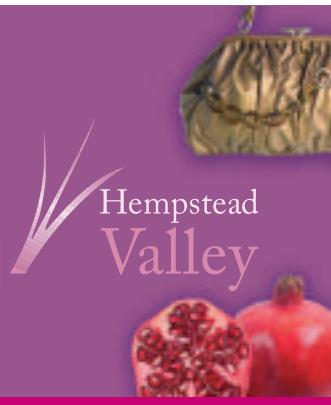
Wallis

Principles

M&S

BHS

Sainsbury's



School makes the grade for athletes

Olympic teams recommended to use facilities

■ BY DAVID PRITCHARD

THE prospect of world class athletes training in Maidstone in the run-up to the 2012 Olympics drew a step closer this week when three of the area's sporting venues were identified as potential training camps.

The London Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) unveiled a list of 600 possible sites in the UK which could be used by athletes before London 2012. In total 36 facilities in Kent were chosen.

Sutton Valence School will be considered for five events – including archery and fencing.

Maidstone Leisure Centre is in the running to host beach volleyball, while Pegasus Gymnastics Centre completes the list.

They will be included in a guide distributed to all other Olympic associations at this summer's Beijing Olympics. From this the national teams will decide which facilities they want to train in to prepare for the London Games.



WELL PREPARED: Seb Coe says the launch of the potential training camp lists is a great step towards the Olympics

The announcement marks the culmination of more than a year's work by the venues and Kent County Council to bring them up to international standard.

KCC cabinet member for community services Mike Hill said: "I am really delighted that Kent has been recognised so highly as a county able to host athletes of Olympic and Paralympic standard and congratulations to all those who were chosen."

"We are reaching a very exciting stage in welcoming teams from a range of sports, visiting and training in Kent ahead of the Games.

"This opportunity will promote Kent on a global scale and bring a real boost to tourism and the local economy, and will result in sporting, educational and cultural exchanges."

At the launch in Buckinghamshire, Sebastian Coe, chairman of LOCOG, said: "The facilities listed will help overseas athletes prepare well. It also provides a great opportunity for towns across the UK to get involved in our plans."

The other sites in the county chosen as potential training camps include Ashford's Julie Rose Stadium, Canterbury Christ Church and Kent universities, Brands Hatch and Gillingham FC.

HSE campaign for sensible risk

COUNCILLORS have made a regional commitment to battle against the urban legends and fears that swamp health and safety.

Kent County Council has teamed up with 13 other local authorities – including Maidstone – to ensure myths like games of conkers and hanging baskets being dangerous are a thing of the past, thanks to their 'sign up to sensible risk' campaign.

Health and Safety Executive regional director, Phil Scott, said: "We've heard the stories about health and safety banning hanging baskets etc. This is not what HSE wants, not what Kent wants and not what the law requires."

Roads county's safest in 2007

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE something positive can come out of the tragedy.

The survey showed that roads in Gravesham were the county's safest with a total of 207 accidents in 2007 – the borough was closely followed by Sevenoaks with 226 accidents.

As a result of the meeting, council officials are in the process of setting up another one to discuss ways these statistics can be dramatically reduced.

PC returns from tough mountain challenge

■ BY LAUREN MUMFORD

A POLICE officer swapped pounding the beat for scaling the highest mountain in Africa.

PC Gary Shaw, who is part of Maidstone's rural neighbourhood team, took part in the Kent Police expedition to Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania.

He was said he was glad to have his feet firmly back on level ground after returning home this week.

Twenty-nine people made the trip to Africa to scale the 5,895m volcanic mountain – but he was one of only 17 to reach the summit.

Mr Shaw said: "It's a life changing experience, but one with memories I will carry for the rest of my life.

"Although you have to deal with extreme conditions and the challenges presented by the high altitude, which all take their toll, it shows just what you can achieve when you put your mind to it.

"I most enjoyed meeting the friendly people of Tanzania who, despite their poverty, were still happy to shout out 'jambo', which means hello, while battling on a daily basis with the hostile mountain environment."

The expedition was organized by



TOP: PC Gary Shaw on Mount Kilimanjaro

Richard McLaughlin from Adventure Café, who said the Kent Police team showed an excellent sense of humour at testing times on the mountain.

"At times our team encountered difficult weather conditions – which made an already hard task even more challenging. Their success rate also shows the team was made of stern stuff."

"Adventure Café was delighted to have been involved."

Fog crash pilot denies drugs smuggling

THE pilot who crashed into the garden of a home while taking a convicted drug smuggler on day release for a pleasure flight was this week arrested on suspicion of growing cannabis.

Sid Clark, 47, was questioned about cultivating the class C drug at his house in Barming, but released on bail for further investigation.

Police raided his four-bedroomed home just days after he crash-landed his Cessna plane into conifer trees in an elderly couple's back garden in Lyminge.

The pilot had taken friend Tim Des Vignes, who was released from prison for a day nearing the end of a sentence for cocaine smuggling, for a flight when the plane narrowly missed the home in fog.

Mr Clark's arrest came hours after he confessed to YourMaidstone last week that he was a former heroin addict who had enjoyed the high life in a variety of Asian countries. The pilot denied that he had been taking Des Vignes, 53, on a drugs pick-up.

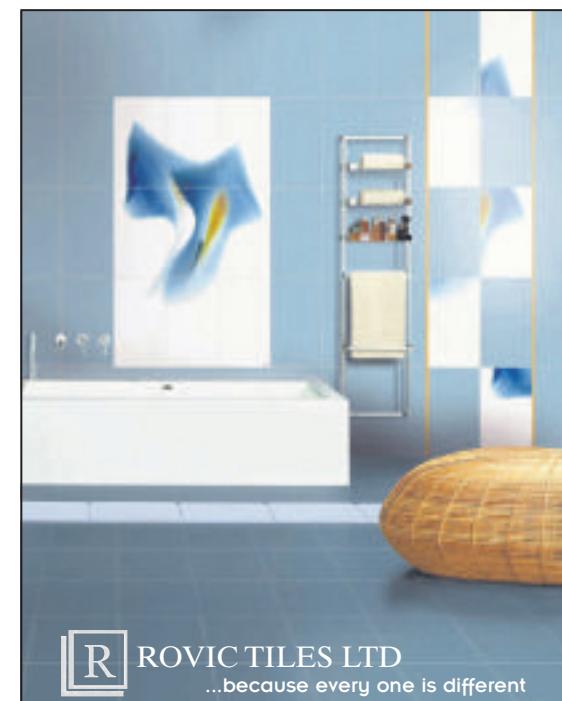
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YOUR LOCAL TV ONLINE



Ken Tishman reports on Maidstone River Festival's cancellation



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yourmaidstone
NEWS IN BRIEF

Budding young writers have chance to win prize

CHILDREN have been invited to let their imagination run wild in a creative writing competition.

Waterstones in Fremlin Walk is holding the competition for primary and secondary school children up to the age of 13. Entrants are split into categories and each have a different story title they must write to.

Winners will receive a £20 gift card for first place, £15 for second place and £10 for third. Entrants need to submit their stories by April 10. See in store for details.

Soldiers' charity benefits from fitness challenge

BUSINESSES and residents who took part in a fitness challenge raised £5,780.63 to help soldiers who have served in Afghanistan.

The 36 Challenge was held at The Mall Chequers in October to raise funds for The 36 Engineers Welfare Fund.

It was set up following the last year's devastating news on September 17 that Corporal Ivano 'Sean' Violino, who was based with the 36 Royal Engineers at Invicta Barracks in Maidstone, had been killed in action in Afghanistan.

Thieves targeting homes with spate of lead thefts

POLICE have warned people to be vigilant following a spate of lead thefts from the roofs of homes.

In the most recent case a home in Kennington Close had lead ripped out of brickwork on the porch between February 22-25.

Earlier in the month a home in Graveney Road had lead removed from its roof in similar circumstances.

Anyone with information is urged to contact the police on 01622 690055.

Biker Barry's Land's End fundraiser comes to end

A MAN was last night due to complete an impressive 400-mile quad bike ride in a bid to raise money for a charity close to his heart.

Barry Barrett, from Minster, on the Isle of Sheppey, set out on Monday morning on a two-day fundraiser from the county town to Land's End in an attempt to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

He has a friend suffering with leukaemia. To sponsor Barry, call Laura Thornton on 01622 600050.

Shock parking fine sparks accusations

Firm's change of policy was news to driver

■ BY LAUREN MUMFORD

A FURIOUS motorist is refusing to pay an £85 parking fine after claiming a company changed its regulations without informing residents of a block of flats.

Carol Noel was issued with the ticket for leaving her car in a visitor's bay at Kingfisher Meadows in Maidstone – which she believed was a 24-hour parking zone. She regularly visits her boyfriend Phil at the newly-built apartments behind the Lockmeadow complex.

Miss Noel said when she parked as usual outside his flat in a visitor's parking bay there was a sign on the wall saying: "Visitor parking limited for short periods ONLY. Maximum period 24 hours."

Her boyfriend claims none of the residents of the block of flats had been informed they needed parking permits for their visitors.

Miss Noel is outraged at the £85 fine from



GREEN: Simon Hughes, left, is shown the site threatened by a planning appeal for a marina development

private parking firm Kent Parking Services, which she has been told she must pay within seven days or face being taken to a small claims court.

She said: "I fully expect the fine to be withdrawn as I was legally parked within the visitors parking area, which is a 24-hour parking zone. I had only been there just over an hour when the ticket was issued."

Regulations

"If I had known about the amount of trouble parking in the car park would cause I would have just used the facilities next door."

A spokesman for Kent Parking Services said: "Because all the accommodation is rented all the permits were issued to landlords, so

it is down to them to give them out – there are also signs up in the car park."

"There's not a lot we can do about it, it was down to her to ensure she displayed a permit."

He said the regulations changed last month and Kent Parking Services sent letters to all residents in December and again in January, and put up signs prior to the change.

"We know no one likes to get a ticket, but at the end of the day if we were not regulating the car park it would be full of people using it instead of Lockmeadow and the residents would have nowhere to park," the spokesman added.

Miss Noel has appealed against her ticket, which is currently being looked at by KPS.

Email yourmaidstone@kosmedia.co.uk

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YOUR LOCAL TV ONLINE



Hop Farm's a great attraction

YEARS ago hop picking in Kent was a hands-on labour intensive activity compared to the mechanical harvesting that goes on today.

The Hop Farm, near Paddock Wood, boasts the largest collection of oast houses in the world on its 500-acre site and is one of Kent's most popular tourist attractions.

The park's new general manager Martin Westwood said: "What we are hoping to do is

create an attraction which is mainly for families with children under ten, with lots of things for them to enjoy and a lot of variety – this development will go on for several years.

Significance

"Our audience target for this year is 150,000, which we would like to grow as the years go by, we can then invest in more things as it gets more successful."

The hop farm boasts a huge events business which has been developed over the last ten years and holds attractions such as War and Peace which is of great international significance and has been going for 25 years.

Business editor Tony Patey went to the hop farm to talk to general manager Mr Westwood to find out for himself how the business continues to grow.



For information and advice on travelling in Kent and for all our traffic regulation orders, please see the Saturday Observer or the Kent on Sunday or visit our website at www.kent.gov.uk/highways



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Picture: PHIL HOUGHTON

CELEBRATING: The young scouts are thrilled to have been offered a new home for their group

Scouts call for help to fix up base

A SCOUT group has been given a new lease of life after securing use of a farm outbuilding as a base.

Boughton Monchelsea Scout Group had been facing an uncertain future after being told it could no longer use its current headquarters in Church Street.

A planning application for a change of use for the new building is due to go before the council in May for approval.

But Boughton Monchelsea Scout Group now urgently needs to raise £35,000 for vital building work to be completed before it moves into its new base.

The scouts have appealed to tradesmen and residents willing to lend a hand to get their newly claimed headquarters into a habitable state.

Work needs to be done to make it structurally sound, create toilets and washing facilities, and look attractive in time for the scheduled move in September.

The group's fundraising committee member Alison Hodges said: "It's so important we raise this money, if we don't then we will have 59 children belonging to a group with nowhere to go."

"The scout group plays a big part in this

■ BY LAUREN MUMFORD

community, it brings it together and that's what we want to keep."

Several residents have already volunteered their services but more are needed, as well as any donations of building materials, fixtures and fittings.

Boys in the group will also hold fundraising events to raise money for the development.

The new hut will be the home of 15 beavers, 20 cubs and 24 scouts, and will be named in memory of Ray Slingsby, the scout group's well-loved and respected former leader who was tragically killed in an accident last year.

Local artist Graham Clarke has also jumped on board and volunteered to make a wood cut logo for the new scout hut.

The scouts are also looking for anyone interested in volunteering to become a leader, which would allow more children from the waiting list to join them.

The group has been given an estimate of eight to ten weeks before the application for a change of use from farm outbuilding to scout headquarters goes before Maidstone council's planning committee.

Enjoy a kickabout with FA skills team

MEET the people behind the FA Skills Coaching Scheme.

The scheme was set up to provide five to 11-year-olds with a variety of important football skills.

These are all aimed at developing their game, fostering lifelong healthy lifestyles and improving the long-term performance of the national game.

Sports editor Glenn Pearson talks to two of these specialist coaches at a training session in Maidstone.

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yourmaidstone

NEWS IN BRIEF

Concerned caller helps PCSO to make arrest

A MAN was arrested on suspicion of drink driving after a concerned resident tipped her local police community support officer.

PCSO Neil Lettington received a phone call from a lady living in Tovil, giving a description of the suspect.

Following up the information Mr Lettington spotted a car parked opposite The Papermakers Arms on Friday, February 22, at 7pm.

When the car was driven away it was stopped by police.

A 61-year-old man was arrested and taken to Maidstone police station for questioning.

Mr Lettington said: "I would like to thank the lady who gave me the information which led to this arrest.

"I am pleased to have been able to help the police officers in this case and would urge any other residents who would like to discuss any issues they feel I may be able to help with to contact me."

The man was released on bail until Saturday, April 19, for further investigation.

Mr Lettington can be contacted on 01622 604391.

Emergency services are now available by text

A NEW lifesaving service has been launched in Maidstone to allow deaf people to contact the emergency services easily.

People with hearing and speech problems can now text Kent's police, fire and ambulance services on their mobile phones, alerting them without having to face problems that could be linked to conventional methods.

Those using the SMS system will have to start their text with the word 'police', 'medic' or 'rescue' depending on which service they need, followed by the rest of their message.

The text will then be channelled to the relevant organisation and dealt with immediately.

Kelly's fruit to be used to produce apple juice

MODEL and actress Kelly Brook is looking to use her orchard to produce her own apple juice.

The Strictly Come Dancing star lives in a country house in Crafty Green, near Maidstone, with Hollywood star Billy Zane.

She has sought advice from a specialist in growing organic crops in order to make use of her orchard in the grounds of her estate.

A friend of the star said: "She has this lovely orchard and has long wanted to do something positive with it rather than just see it sitting there doing nothing."

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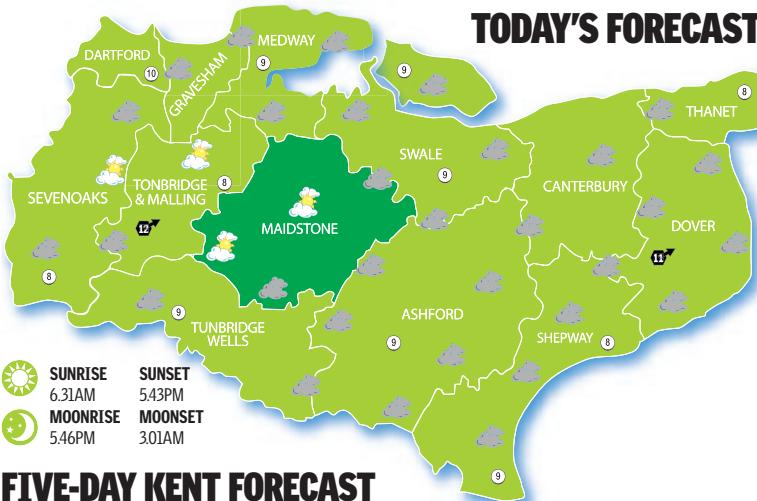
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TODAY'S FORECAST

WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	1:20pm	6.2m
	Sunday	1:57pm	6.3m
Dover	Saturday	11:21am	6.6m
	Sunday	12:00pm	6.7m
Dungeness	Saturday	11:30am	7.8m
	Sunday	12:05pm	8.0m
Ramsgate	Saturday	11:51am	5.1m
	Sunday	12:30pm	5.2m
Sheerness	Saturday	1:10pm	5.8m
	Sunday	1:47pm	5.9m
Whitstable	Saturday	1:18pm	5.3m
	Sunday	1:53pm	5.3m

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	7°C	9°C	13°C	11°C	11°C	Gravesend	8°C	10°C	12°C	11°C	12°C
Canterbury	7°C	8°C	11°C	10°C	11°C	Maidstone	7°C	9°C	12°C	11°C	12°C
Chatham	7°C	9°C	12°C	11°C	11°C	Ramsgate	7°C	8°C	11°C	10°C	11°C
Dartford	8°C	10°C	12°C	11°C	12°C	Rochester	7°C	9°C	12°C	11°C	11°C
Dover	7°C	7°C	10°C	9°C	9°C	Sevenoaks	6°C	8°C	11°C	9°C	10°C
Faversham	7°C	9°C	12°C	11°C	11°C	Sittingbourne	7°C	9°C	12°C	11°C	11°C
Folkestone	7°C	7°C	10°C	9°C	9°C	Tonbridge	7°C	9°C	12°C	10°C	11°C
Gillingham	7°C	9°C	12°C	11°C	11°C	Tun Wells	7°C	9°C	12°C	10°C	11°C

AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	6°C	Madrid	18°C
Athens	13°C	New York	3°C
Barcelona	14°C	Paris	9°C
Beijing	10°C	Rome	17°C
Bombay	32°C	Sydney	23°C
Cape Town	26°C	Tenerife	20°C
Cardiff	6°C	Tokyo	11°C
Gibraltar	18°C	Vancouver	8°C
Hong Kong	25°C	Warsaw	7°C
Las Palmas	20°C	Wellington	15°C

Nominate a tree and one will be planted

COUNCIL chiefs have launched a competition to promote trees, and how they look after our health and the appearance of our towns, villages and countryside.

Residents should send in a photograph of their favourite tree with a short description of why it is special to them – for every entry received a tree will be planted in the borough.

The council is also keen to find trees that are old, big, unusual, interesting, historically significant or associated with someone famous.

Schools will also have the chance to get involved and artists are encouraged to send in their drawings or paintings to form part of a special exhibition at the Hazlitt Art Gallery.

Entries will be accepted until October 31. See www.maidstonearts.com or call 01622 602828.

Hunt for Easter eggs and raise charity cash

CHILDREN have been invited to a fun-packed day including an Easter egg hunt to help raise money for a hospice for the terminally ill.

The Heart of Kent Hospice will host the event at Oakwood House in Maidstone, which will include storytelling, and a mini farmyard featuring real lambs and Easter bunnies.

The farm has been kindly loaned for the event by the Museum of Kent Life.

Tickets for the fun day on March 16 cost £8 per child and will include lunch – there is no fee for parents attending with their children.

For details call 01622 790195.



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QUESTION & ANSWER

ROB SMITH



QA

BBC South East Today presenter Rob Smith took the time to talk to **Simon Robinson** about his high-profile job, what makes working in Kent such a pleasure and what he likes to do in his precious spare time

Q What is your professional background?

A I started out in radio first – I'd got the taste for it at Warwick University – and after leaving, while working for a small company in Essex calibrating hydrometers and viscometers (I really needed some cash...), I found out one of the girls in the lab was best friends with the news editor at Essex FM.

I then made sure I was at a party they were going to and kept plying him with lager until he agreed to give me a week's work experience. That was probably my best ever investment.

After being a trainee radio reporter at Essex for a year, and six months at The New Leicester Sound, I landed a job with BBC Radio Kent, reading news bulletins and reporting.

After seven good years there, which included presenting the drive-time programme, I moved over to TV.

Q What does your job entail?

A It depends which hat I'm wearing at the time. I am a reporter and presenter for BBC South East Today, the BBC's regional television news programme for Kent.

I also work as a video journalist – which means I film and edit my own pieces. There have been days when I have filmed and edited a story, and then presented the news programme as well!

The great thing about it is that I have almost complete editorial control over my stories.

Q What are your favourite aspects in terms of working in the South East?

A I love working where I live. I've been in Kent for over 12 years and have no desire to leave. I play hockey for Gillingham Anchors and am captaining the 3rd XI this year. I keep my boat on the Medway – yacht rather than motorboat – and love getting out on the river during the week when sometimes you can be the only person out there. It is fantastically relaxing and invigorating when you have a good day. And having been around here for a while, I've gotten to know a lot of people – and people quite often recognise me, which is very nice.

Q How good is the area news-wise when compared to other parts of the country?

A We have everything here within such a compact area – right next to London, right next to the Continent – lots of farmland in the Garden of England, a huge coastline, ancient castles, and rural communities alongside built up areas like Medway. The only thing we're lacking is a Premiership football team. Once the Gills are in the top flight, I don't think you could find a better news patch anywhere.

Q What qualifications/skills are needed to get into your job?

A I have a degree in history and a postgraduate diploma in broadcast journalism – and neither are necessary to get a job as reporter or presenter in TV. The most important thing is, can you tell a story? Can you communicate

with people? It doesn't matter how academically gifted you are, if you can't get the gist of a complex issue down into a comprehensible news item and tell that story in less than two minutes, then you can't do the job.

Q Is your job rewarding?

A Immensely. There are occasions when you know that by highlighting an issue on TV, it can really make a difference to people's lives. Reports on South East Today led to a government review into hospital cleanliness – that is something that makes a real difference to thousands of people.

Q What's been the highlight in your career?

A Presenting the main programme on South East Today fulfils an ambition in its own right. As a youngster in the 70s I used to watch Nationwide and always wanted to be a newsreader on the telly. I also wanted to be the person to say "This is the Ten O'clock News from the BBC...." – and I've done that as well.

Q What have you got planned for the future?

A This summer I am hoping to sail right around the British Isles and raise money for Leukaemia Research. The plan is to get round in about three weeks and stop off in Newcastle, Aberdeen, Belfast and Plymouth on the way.

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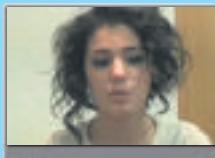
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Hop picking used to be a major Kent industry... now it is a tourist attraction. Find out why.

A training session in Maidstone as part of the FA Skills Coaching Scheme for five to 11 year olds.

Action from the quad bike racing on Margate beach which this year attracted more than 100 riders.

Click on to a comedy tribute to Kent's own funnyman Joe Pasquale by look-a-like Nigel Wright.

Katie Melua, one of the UK's top selling artists, met the under-10s Darenth Rangers football team sponsored by her label.

EDITOR'S CHOICE

You can view all these videos and others from around the county with the click of a mouse at...
yourkenttv.co.uk

Addicted to the run

Sports reporter **David Pritchard** spent Sunday preparing for an assault on the London Marathon next month with a 20-mile run up and down the hills of Thanet. He explains what drives him on and why, for a few hours, he'll be part of sport's elite

"MY name is David Pritchard and I am a jogger." They say admitting you have a problem is the best way to conquering your addiction, so I guess that's the first hurdle cleared.

I am coming clean because since October I have given up several evenings a week, plus most of my weekends, to running. It is all in the name of preparation for one big day out in April when I will join around 45,000 others attempting to complete the London Marathon.

The question is, why do so many otherwise apparently sane people commit themselves to six months of painful, exhausting training, all so they can run for hours on end around the capital?

Are we all mad?

The thought did cross my mind more than once on Sunday as I plodded my way round the Thanet 20-mile course with 500 others, most of whom were using it as a training race for London.

Granted it was a nice day to be outside, and the fact I had run 20 miles before some people had got out of bed did make me feel undeniably smug, but there must be better ways to see Ramsgate?

Nevertheless, as I write with limbs still aching from the exertions, I believe I have stumbled on the reason we put ourselves through all this agony.

Some good-hearted souls may do it to raise money for worthy causes, but I think for the majority – including myself – this is a positive by-product rather than the main motivation.

Instead, my theory is we do it to live out our

sporting fantasies. That may sound a little odd, but stay with me, I'm going somewhere with this.

You see, while most sport-loving people grow up with dreams of scoring a cup final winner or Olympic gold, sadly for all but a chosen few, at some point we have to admit defeat and get back to reality.

However, running the marathon allows us to revive those hopes and transforms us into sporting stars for the day.

We get to run on the same course at the same time as some of the world's best athletes, cheered on by almost a million spectators, with everything beamed live across the world.

It's like having a kick-around at Wembley just after the FA Cup final, playing a round at St Andrews during golf's Open Championship, or driving your old banger around Silverstone during the British Grand Prix.

Sure we are never going to win and the only way we are likely to get on TV is if we are dressed as a deep sea diver or Marilyn Monroe (at this point I would like to make it clear I will be doing neither), but that's not the point.

In exchange for a few months' lonely slog around the streets we get to live the dream, and when you look at it like that we don't seem so mad after all.

At least that's my excuse for not kicking the habit and I'm sticking to it.

• **David is attempting to raise £1,500 for Cardiac Risk in the Young by completing the London Marathon. If you would like to sponsor him you can go to www.justgiving.com/davipritchard and donate online.**

Picture: GLENN PEARSON



ON TRACK: KOS Media sports reporter David Pritchard is putting in the miles in preparation for the London Marathon in April, all for charity

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Phenomenal' response to Kent Big Day Out

THOUSANDS of free tickets to some of the county's top visitor attractions were nabbed within hours of being made available.

An incredible 11,000 of the 16,000 tickets available as part of the Kent Big Day Out event were downloaded within eight hours of the Visit Kent website going live.

But the good news is there are still tickets available for a range of destinations.

Fran Warrington, head of tourism at Kent County Council, said: "The response to our second Kent Big Day Out has been phenomenal."

"Steam train journeys and boat trips were among the first to be snapped up closely followed by many of our newer attractions such as Dickens World, Go Ape at Bedgebury and Leeds Castle, as well as our iconic destinations such as Dover Castle and Canterbury Cathedral."

For further information about all the attractions taking part in the Kent Big Day Out 2008 visit www.visitkent.co.uk or call in at a visitor information centre.

New competition looks for short comedy films

BUDGING film-makers still have time to enter a new competition looking for the short comedy films.

The 2 Days Laughter competition is being run by Margate-based Beeping Bush Productions and Canterbury firm Close-Up Film.

Organisers are looking for short films or sketches, stand-up or improvised routines of no more than five minutes in length.

Entrants may take time to develop their script, but the actual shoot and edit must take place over just 48 hours.

The shortlisted films will be put before a panel of industry professionals, which includes one of UK's favourite and most prolific actresses, Ramsgate-born Brenda Blethyn.

Details are on www.2dayslater.co.uk.



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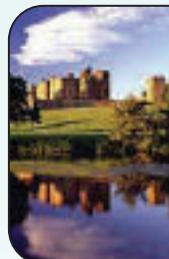
Now described as the 8th wonder of the world The Eden Project's gigantic domes house over 100,000 plants. Marvel at the Lost Gardens of Heligan rediscovered after 70 years of neglect. Day tickets to both included. Staying at the 3* Cliff Head hotel (HB).



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Tory health chief backing our campaign to wipe out infection

■ BY JENNA PUDELIK

SHADOW Health Secretary Andrew Lansley has backed KOS Media's campaign to promote hand hygiene in hospitals and health-care centres across Kent.

The message is simple – WASH YOUR HANDS – and help the county's hard working doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals in their battle against superbugs.

The leading Tory came to Kent this week to view proposals for the new PFI hospital planned for Pembury near Tunbridge Wells.

Health bosses want it to be 100 per cent single rooms, which would tackle infection control problems and offer patient dignity.

He also visited Kent and Sussex Hospital in Tunbridge Wells, which saw two killer outbreaks of the superbug Clostridium difficile.

Asked whether he would back KOS Media's campaign, he said: "Yes absolutely, I think the public need to be aware that control of infection is something we can all play our part in."

He said killer bugs could live in the community and not cause problems, but when people are vulnerable and in hospital, care homes or even GP surgeries, germs can spread and patients are more susceptible to infection.

"People have to start thinking about managing infection as part of our social responsibility. We all need to be aware of the need to use alcohol gel in hospitals and in the case of C diff the need to wash your hands with soap and water," Mr Lansley said.

He added: "These airborne diseases can be minimised by people behaving well hygienically and making people increasingly aware of the need to protect others."

Deaths from the superbug C diff rose 72 per cent nationally between 2005 and 2006, figures from the Office for National Statistics revealed on Thursday.

In the South East there was an increase of 51 per cent with 292 people dying in 2005,



NEW PFI: Andrew Lansley, Greg Clark and Sir John Stanley being shown the model of the new hospital by hospital estates director Graham Goddard

compared to 576 the following year.

The ONS found that the majority of deaths across the country were among elderly people.

Meanwhile, MRSA took only 34 more lives in 2006 than the previous year in South East – a pattern also reflected nationally.

The Department of Health said the increase was because of more complete reporting on death certificates and said that infection rates had since dropped.

Infection rates in trusts across Kent have improved since 2006.

NHS South East Coast, the strategic health authority for Kent, Surrey and Sussex, said figures from the Health Protection Agency at the end of last year showed a continuing decline of C diff infections since 2006.

It expects to wipe out cases of hospital acquired MRSA by 2011.



STYLE GURU: Celebrity stylist Gok Wan with New Look competition winners at Bluewater

How to look good dressed

THREE lucky ladies found out how to look great this spring with the help of celebrity stylist Gok Wan.

The star of Channel 4's How To Look Good Naked paid a visit to Bluewater on Saturday, where he transformed the fully-clothed looks of the three competition winners.

Hannah Chapman, 14, from Dartford, Emma Douglas, 36, from Nuneaton and Carole Gunning, 47, from West Kingsdown, were treated to an expert makeover by Gok himself after winning a competition run by New Look.

Shapes

He showed them which colours and shapes suited them, before dressing them each in a fantastic new outfit from New Look's spring/summer collection.

Once hair and make-up stylist Yvette Redmond had added the finishing touches, Hannah, Emma and Carole left feeling like superstars.

Gok Wan will be filming How To Look Good Naked in the Guild Hall at Bluewater on Friday (Mar 7) and Friday, April 4.

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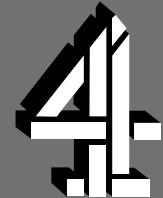
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So I'd like to take this opportunity to thank publicly all you folk responsible for the roads of this fine county.

Yes, that's right, you council people who take almost £1,500 a year from me in council tax (some of which is supposed to be spent on roads) and of course to the thieves at the DVLA who rip me off for another £160 a year in road tax.

In truth I had wanted to write this piece holding Kent County Council's lazy highways' department totally to blame for my damage and tell you that a look at their website gives me absolutely no indication who I can contact when the council fails to do its job.

But I was a wrong... well at least partially.

Four weeks ago I drove through what I can only describe as a bomb crater on the nearside of the road in a village.

Scared the life out of me, I can tell you, as it ripped a hole in the rear tyre.

Now, I won't bore you but it's a tyre on a big saloon and suffers from the modern car makers' trend of putting huge wheels with low profile tyres on them.

Brilliant on smooth, properly maintained roads; absolute rubbish off them.

It is no wonder that 4x4s remain popular and deserve to continue to do so, so long as our roads only match those in Poland and other former Eastern Bloc states.

The joke is that all those new EC member states are getting zillions of euros (once again paid for by us) to build brilliant new highways.

Anyway, having stumped up a staggering £130 for a new tyre I took some pictures of the crater and resolved to contact KCC and give someone a piece of my mind. But I was busy.

But when the new sound of banging from the front suspension became unbearable I booked the car into the dealer.

"Your suspension mount is damaged sir, oh yes, and there's a dangerous bulge on the inside of the front tyre," I was told.

Now I was cross for not bothering to pursue

the matter immediately with the council.

In fact if you call the above number you will be put through to a nice young man who will listen to your complaint and the council will send an engineer to take a look at the road. Apparently.

You don't even have to worry about writing countless letters, you can email kenthighways-services@kent.gov.uk (write that down too). You can email them your phone pictures of the hole that has just wrecked your pride and joy.

And hopefully the council will stump up the cash for the damage it has caused by its woeful neglect of our roads.

The secret is to make sure you do complain, don't be like me and leave it too long.

As a pal of mine who works for a council said: "If people complain, we will do something about it. But compensating the few who bother to complain is cheaper than making sure the job is done properly and safely in the first place."

Remember 08458 247 247, ask for Highways.

And drive carefully.

EDITOR'S NOTE: All bloggers are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

GET IN TOUCH...

We want to hear your views



EMAIL: Letters, comments, views (along with your name) to: yourmaidstone@kosmedia.co.uk



TEXT: MAID then your message to: 818000 (please remember to include you name)

LET US KNOW...

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the news editor, **Jon Coates**, on **01303 817048** or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Maidstone blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the news editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourmaidstone.co.uk.

Write to The Editor, Yourmaidstone, KoS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

* We cannot guarantee all articles will be published and all are at the editor's discretion

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Ship, nights, port of call France/Spain Dover, La Rochelle, Bilbao, La Coruna Cherbourg, Dover	18th September	Brochure Fare	£2,155 £970	£1,735 £781	£1,300 £585
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Attractive female, 29, size 8-10, 5'8", long hair/blue eyes, enjoys gym, cinema, dancing, seeking honest, reliable male 27-35 yrs old GSOH, kind, honest, trustworthy for friendship. Box 394013

LOVE IS ALL YOU NEED

Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting loving relationship. Box 439413

SEARCHING MR RIGHT

Lively, attractive female, 32, 5'5", looking to meet that someone special to share life, laughter and love. Box 429124

HOPING FOR MORE

32yr old kind, warm walking my dogs, cosy nights in evenings out. WLTM tall, honest, trustworthy male for friendship. Box 430393

NO BAGGAGE, SO LET'S PACK!

Hi I'm 33, from Canterbury, non-worker as have heart problems, looking to meet someone who's kind, honest, loving and affectionate for romantic times. Box 436785

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RAMSGATE REVIVAL

Honest, single outgoing female, 31, 5'11", loves to go out and have fun with good company, duds etc. WLTM similar male, for friendship and more. Box 927816

CANTERBURY TALE

Single mom of 2, 32, would like to meet someone kind, caring and considerate, for friendship and cinema. Box 406760

LESSONS IN LOVE

Loving, caring, black African female, 33, school teacher. WLTM caring, honest, loving, open, professional man, 35-50 with whom I can share in life's something meaningful. Box 422460

TRY NEW THINGS

Mum of 1, 5ft4, blonde/slim, young looking. 34yrs old. I'm caring, honest, with GSOH, like keep-fit, cinema, dancing, food, beach walks, seeks male for honesty, romance. Box 431539

R U THE 1?

Outgoing, funny, young-looking female, 34, 5ft3, brown hairies, Tonbridge. Seeks caring, loyal male for friendship, leading to more. Box 433107

HAPPY TIMES

Say hello to me, I'm happy moments with a loving, caring guy, around 35-40. Does that sound like you? Box 435380

ROMANCE IS ALIVE

Divorced female, 35, 5'5", 100kg. I enjoy time with family/friends, cinema, good food, beach walks, seeks male for honesty, love, romance. Box 819393

SECOND THAT EMOTION

I'm an attractive, dark-haired female, 36, who enjoys cinema, coffee, theatre and socialising, seeking a fun, caring, considerate, romantic guy, for a chat and more. Box 436807

TRUST MATTERS

Independent professional, 35, 5'7", fit, GSOH, enjoy travel, cinema, looking for a like-minded, caring and honest male to share life with. Box 431774

TRAVEL HAPPY

Medway female, 36, 5ft8, blue/green eyes, slim, likes dancing, amateur dramatics, walks, much more, looking for someone who could make me laugh, for possible relationship. Box 434372

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SOMETIMES YOU NEED A MAN

36 year old female, divorced with no children, brunette, loves travel, music, cinema, nice meals, theatre, cercos, salsa, seeking someone for dates and more. Rainham Box 434374

NICE PERSONALITY

Single, 40+, female, like most things in life, very loving and caring, 5'5", cuddly build, good personality, seeking a gentle, considerate man. Box 431286

NEVER SAY NEVER

Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes. Likes swimming, staying in, going for walks, seeing friends and more. Box 428665

JOIN ME BABY

Fun-loving, vivacious woman, 40, enjoys dining out, walking, cinema, looking for a confident man with GSOH, N/S for friendship and more. Box 436889

PRETTEY WOMAN

Hard-working female, 41, 5'4", bubbly, independent woman, love to laugh, socialising with friends, looking for independent man who values TLC. Box 414156

DON'T PASS ME BY

Single, large built, tall lady, aged 43, newly settled in Kent, needs to spread her wings and make a nice chap! Let's chat. Box 889783

COULD IT BE MAGIC?

Single mum of 2, 37, caring and loving, 5ft4, short, blonde hair, blue eyes, seeking a mate for good times and more. Box 898664

OUTGOING

Single, large built, tall lady, aged 43, newly settled in Kent, needs to spread her wings and make a nice chap! Let's chat. Box 889783

TAKE A CHANCE

Hard-working female, 41, 5'4", bubbly, independent woman, love to laugh, socialising with friends, looking for independent man who values TLC. Box 414156

LOVE CAN'T BE BOUGHT

Happy, fit, youthful 45y old single mom, N/S, nice, large bubbly lady, love puts, country walks, bird-watching, seeking kind, tactile, N/S gent, possibly romantic. Box 435624

LOVING NATURE

42yr old single female, 5'4", brown hair, green eyes, medium build, enjoy cinema, meals out, seeking a friendly male for nice times. Box 435451

STRIKE ME!

I'm Jackie, 43, 5ft1, blue eyes brown hair, single mom, love putting on, reading, writing, music, dancing, seeking a mate for good times and more. Box 436763

MEN ONLY, NO MICE!

I'm Jackie, 43, 5ft1, blue eyes brown hair, single mom, love putting on, reading, writing, music, dancing, seeking a mate for good times and more. Box 436763

YOUR TIME IS COMING

38yr old bubbly, affectionate woman with a lively personality, 5'5", like reading, walking, pub, looking for a friendly chap for good times and more. Box 436584

A TIME TO DANCE

Single, 40+, medium build, brown hair, blue eyes, seeking a mate for good times and more. Box 436584

FRIENDLY BRUNETTE

Friendly, single, 40+, medium build, brown hair, blue eyes, seeking a mate for good times and more. Box 436584

SHIE'S THE ONE!

Young-at-heart female, 48, medium build, 5ft2, dark hair, blue eyes, GSOH, very active, likes clubs and dining out, seeking someone with similar interests. Box 435098

CURVY AND DYE

45yr young female, tall, blonde, a hairdresser, just looking for the right man to get to know and let's meet more! Box 437381

A FINE ROMANCE

Pleasant female, 43, medium/large build, blue/green eyes, given up children, beach walks, relaxing, reading, writing, seeking a mate with GSOH, for LTR. Box 426274

READ ALL ABOUT IT

Petite, sincere woman, 44, wavy blonde hair, blue eyes, size 10, loves beach walks, animals, DIY, swimming, travel, N/S need to share things with. Box 437381

LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING NEW PEOPLE

45 year old female, has 2 dogs, works full time, likes horseriding, gardening, walks, seeking. enjoys eating out, enjoys cooking, seeking a mate for good times and more. Box 436104

IT'S WHAT YOU MAKE OF IT!

44yr old female, blonde hair, 5ft5, slim, easygoing, enjoy many things in life, looking for someone similar out there to enjoy life with! Box 436104

COUNTING ON YOU

Lonely, honest lady, 52, enjoy walks, cycling, travel, WLTM similar to get a mate for good times and possibly leading to LTR. Box 431448

THE EYES HAVE IT

Friendly, bubbly, fun-loving woman, 45, 5ft3, short, blonde hair, blue eyes, seeking a mate for good times, likes pub, music, eating out, own home guy, looking for honest man 44-55, who enjoys life. Box 823441

IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED...

Hello, I'm 53, 5ft11, brown eyes, grey hair, a widow, been hurt badly recently so I'm seeking my soulmate. I enjoy walks, socialising, seeking a man 44-55, who enjoys life. Box 436991

ON A PLATE

Caring, honest 46yr old female, 5'2", eyes of blue, likes to eat, enjoys walking, good food, socialising, seeking a mate for good times and more. Box 435322

GET IT TOGETHER

Kind, caring, spiritual lady, 39, 5'4", average build, has puppy-dog eyes, brown hair, looking for genuine, honest guy, seeking a mate for good times and more. Box 436994

JOY AT HEART

Attractive 38yr old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curvy physique, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, seeks loving, fun, male, for friendship/relationship. Box 101953

THE WONDER OF YOU

38yr old female, single mom, slim, blonde, enjoys life, likes the fresh air, having a good time, WLTM a thoughtful, kind, fun-loving male. Box 437322

MAKE ME GIGGLE

Black hair, 5ft6, size 10, 5ft2, likes pink, red, seeking a socialite male, who likes having a laugh. Gillingham. Box 429656

THE WIT TO WOO!

Kent female, 39, 5'7, dark eyes, GSOH, no ties, likes cosy nights in, shopping, country pubs, cinema, seeks loyal, caring, kind, male for friendship/more. Box 152662

MOVING ON UP

38yr old female, 5ft4, brown hair, blue eyes, seeking a mate for good times and more. Box 435322

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yourcompetition

WIN tickets to London Golf Show



IT'S one of the top dates on the golfing calendar with enthusiasts flocking to the London Golf Show.

And you could be there too next month thanks to this newspaper.

We have teamed up with organisers of the event at the ExCeL in London to offer ten readers a pair of tickets each.

Ryder Cup hero David Howell was among those at last year's London Golf Show and ExCeL London will once again open its doors to the golfing world, from April 25-27.

Howell was representing Cleveland Golf as one of the manufacturer's tour pros and the company will be returning along with fellow big brands Nike and Wilson.

All three will showcase their latest equipment on the purpose-built indoor driving range, while Cleveland and Wilson will also have their custom-fit trucks at the show, so golfers can enjoy the experience as tour professionals.

What's more, visitors stand to get even better value this year with a stunning offer on advanced tickets pricing them at two for just £15, while under-13s go free when accompanied by an adult.

And everyone coming to the show

can get free entry to A Place in the Sun Live, the world's largest overseas property exhibition, which is at ExCeL at the same time – that's two tickets to two shows for just £15.

With exhibitors showing everything from equipment and fashions to golfing gadgets and the hottest holiday destinations from around the world, the 2008 London Golf Show promises to be a great day out.

We have 10 pairs of tickets to the event to giveaway.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your e-mail address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to London Golf Show Comp, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR. You can also text your answer to 81800, followed by a space, the answer, a space and your name and address.

Messages cost 25p plus standard network charges. The service is provided by g8wave London N7.

No purchase necessary. For our full Terms and Conditions please see www.kentnews.co.uk or call 01303 817073. If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry. The closing date is March 31.

Question: Where is the London Golf Show being held this April?

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yourletters

TALK TIME

ROBIN FULLER

The parish councillor took the time to talk to Yourmaidstone about growing up in the county town and why it is a special place to live.



Can you tell us about yourself?

I have worked as a highways and drainage engineer since leaving Maidstone Grammar School in 1960.

I am now engineering manager for the Rural Housing Trust, which specialises in small village developments of affordable local needs housing.

My wife Lynda and I moved to Boughton Monchelsea in December 1999. At the time we were secretary and chairman of Linton Scout Group, but unfortunately the group had to close due to a shortage of leaders.

Boughton Monchelsea Scout Group found places for all the cubs and scouts from Linton who wanted to carry on and I said at the time, "if there is anything I can do to help in the future, please ask".

Now that opportunity has arisen and I am pleased to be acting as project manager for the group's new headquarters, which will be in Haste Hill Road.

The group is thriving with 60 members of various ages and a waiting list.

Tell us about your role within the parish council?

I was co-opted on to Boughton Monchelsea Parish Council three years ago to represent the North Ward and have just been elected chairman following the resignation of Ian Ellis. He is going to be a hard act to follow.

Maidstone is a great place to live with interesting history, a wide choice of drama and music productions, nice places to eat and good shopping.

The surrounding countryside has much to offer and during 35 years as a regular runner I got to know most of the footpaths in the area.

YOUR LETTERS



Bureaucrats have closed our festival

I was saddened to read your front page story last week about the River Festival being cancelled.

This has become a highlight of the year for the boating community in our town.

I have been for the last five years and was looking forward to meeting up with people you see at the event every year.

The cancellation is a sad loss to the town as we do not make enough use of the river which should be one of our greatest assets.

To see thousands of people flock to the river banks and have a good time was a wonderful experience which will be missed.

The organisers have done a fantastic job over the years and deserve thanks for the boost they have given our economy.

It's easy to blame Kent Police for the crippling charges which have killed off the festival.

But I think the blame lies squarely with the national bureaucrats who have brought in this ridiculous blanket policy which will kill off community and charity events.

LETTERS: Please send your letters in to us at Yourmaidstone, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR

TEXT: Why not text your view/letter/comment for Yourmaidstone to 81800 text MAID followed by a space your name and your view/letter/comment. Messages cost 25p plus standard network charges. Service provided by g8wave London N7.

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Why wind power leaves me cold

Your mystery contributor who wrote last week's blogger has...

energy. No one has ever suggested depending on wind power alone, but it has the largest potential to deliver electricity of any of the available options and at half the price of that generated by nuclear power.

And wind power does not involve huge decommissioning or radioactive waste storage costs.

Since we have the best wind resources in Europe, the UK will benefit from further offshore wind farms – including those planned to add to the existing Kentish Flats wind farm operating off Whitstable.

Bill's idea of returning to fast breeder reactors for our electricity is extraordinary.

The British Fast Breeder Reactor programme's Dounreay power station was shut down in the 1990s having been found too expensive and unreliable to run.

The best electricity production it ever managed was just 18 per cent of its intended capacity. It was a terrible waste of money.

Bill also falsely claims renewables cannot meet demand for energy. In particular, he is saying renewables cannot meet base load or peak demand.

Late last year, a German economics ministry experiment showed that distributed power can indeed produce reliable base load in a secure and reliable manner.

Thirty-six decentralised renewable plants – a mix of biogas, wind, solar (photovoltaics or PV) and hydropower – were linked by three companies and a university in a nationwide network controlled by a central

yourcompetition

WIN tickets to The Vitality Show



ENTRY EXTENDED

THERE'S still time to enter the fabulous competition we ran last week to land one of 30 pairs of tickets and a goody bag for the Vitality Show with Muller at London's Olympia.

Europe's largest health, beauty and well-being show takes place between March 27-30.

And we are grateful to all of our readers who contacted us to point out, due to a glitch in the system, the question posed to win the tickets was omitted from our copy. Everyone who has contacted us has been entered into the prize. But those who want to enter can still do so as the closing date is now March 14.

To be in with a chance of winning, answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address and daytime telephone number to: Vitality Show Comp, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

Q. In which UK city is the Vitality Show taking place?

No purchase necessary. For full terms and conditions see www.kentnews.co.uk or call 01303 817073. If you do not wish to receive any marketing literature please write 'no literature' on your entry. For details on the show, log-on to www.thevitalityshow.co.uk.

The police have always managed to cover events in the past from the taxes we give them every year and I really can't understand why this has to be changed now.

Mike Rogers,
from Maidstone, by email

Conservation is the key to success

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computer. This demonstrates that new coal or nuclear power stations can be avoided, if a strong commitment to implementing renewable energy is made.

According to Bill's claims, Austria should not be able to meet 78 per cent of its electricity demand from renewables, but it does; Iceland should not be meeting 76 per cent of its total energy demand from renewables, but it does.

What has been done elsewhere in Europe can be done here. It is a matter of political will since the technological obstacles Bill alleges do not in fact exist.

If a more effective Government commitment to energy conservation and renewables is created, many useful, long-term jobs will be created in Kent as elsewhere.

Steve Dawe,
from Kent Green Party, by email

whole range of activities going on in communities right across the UK, and you can sign up for free text messages and emails to help you through the first weeks.

Across the UK over a million people will rise to the challenge and commit to quit for good. Are you ready to join them?

Dr Rosemary Leonard MBE,
BBC Breakfast's resident doctor, by email



Payment options are not easy for us all

A number of high street retailers have recently announced they will no longer offer their customers the opportunity to pay by cheque.

Whilst the slow death of cheques is probably inevitable, older people remain more likely than other age groups to continue to use cheques as a means of payment.

The truth is that some older consumers in Maidstone may already be struggling with the many changes in the way we manage money, such as the introduction of chip and pin cards, and this represents another challenge.

More than nine in ten older people have told us that more should be done to help vulnerable older people deal with the changes in the way society uses money.

As a charity we provide advice to older people across the country on exactly these issues through our Your Money Matters programme, run in partnership with Barclays.

The projects are aimed at improving the skills, confidence and financial situation of older people by providing basic money management and debt advice.

We would recommend older readers consider asking their bank or building society for a chip and pin, or a chip and signature card.

For those who find it difficult to use a PIN, the chip and signature card is a better option. All retailers should offer the facility to use this type of card.

Rachel Corry,
Your Money Matters programme manager
for Help the Aged, by email

What happened to all the good music?

So we are going to have a music festival in May.

I hope it's nothing like the mumbo jumbo we had in the Brits Awards – what a load of rubbish.

I'm afraid the days of good music that you could listen to are long gone. We never seem to get country music or nice ballads that older people can enjoy.

It's all noise, noise, noise all the way through, which is alright for kids.

E Alexander,
from West Malling, by letter.

Make the most of no smoking day

We all know that more and more people are quitting for good, but smoking is still the number one cause of premature avoidable death in the UK.

There are 12 million smokers in the UK, and it's a habit that will kill half of those who aren't able to give up. Most smokers would like to quit, but it's not easy. And that's where No Smoking Day comes in.

No Smoking Day 2008 takes place on March 12, and this year's theme, The Great No Smoking Day Challenge, is all about getting involved and getting fit.

You can get sponsored to support your favourite charity, there's a

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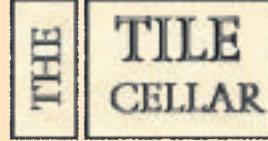
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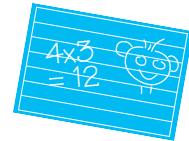
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BREAK TIME

Early learning key conference topic

A MAJOR conference today will allow school teachers and childcare workers to discuss essential aspects of a child's early learning.

The free conference at the Ramada Hotel in Maidstone includes seminars and speeches by national and local speakers, including the director of Kent Children's Families and Education Graham Badman, and representatives from Ofsted and the Children's Workforce Development Council.

Run along to school for Sport Relief

PARENTS, children and teachers will put on their running shoes for one of the biggest sporting events of the year.

The Malling School is hosting 'The East Malling Partnership mile' in aid of Sport Relief on March 16.

There are thousands of events taking place over the weekend of Friday March 14 to Sunday March 16. To take part in the Malling mile will cost adults £5, children £2 and a family £12.

For more information call 01732 840995 or visit www.sportrelief.com to find out about other events.

It's the right option

EVERYTHING you need to know about education options across Kent will be contained in a major new supplement published this weekend.

Education in Kent will be available in our sister title – Kent on Sunday – and made accessible online for easy, free, download via our website, www.yourmaidstone.co.uk.

The guide covers all ages of education from nursery to adult.

Results make girls into 'record-breakers'

■ BY LAUREN MUMFORD

GRAMMAR school pupils in the county town have excelled in their key stage three exams, the latest results tables have shown.

Students at Maidstone Girls Grammar achieved the fourth best SATs results in the county, scoring an average of 44 per cent.

Maidstone Grammar was also among the high achieving schools with an average score of 43.4 per cent.

They were joined by Oakwood Park Grammar School with 42.5 per cent and Invicta Grammar School for Girls with 41.6 per cent.

MGGS deputy headteacher Paul Harris said: "We're obviously very delighted indeed, the results are a credit to the hard work of the students and staff."

"We have actually had a record-breaking year with 74 per cent of students achieving level seven in English, 63 per cent in science and 87 per cent of students achieving level seven or above in maths."

"What's particularly rewarding is the students have only joined us from primary school three years ago and this is the first analysis of how they've progressed, which has been really good for them and their parents."

Youngsters at schools across the country sit their SATs examinations in November, where they are quizzed in maths, science and English.

These compulsory national exams tell staff and parents how well pupils are getting on at school, if they are at the correct level for their age, and in some cases, puts them into 'streamed' classes depending on their level of ability in preparation for their GCSEs.

Kent County Council cabinet member for



HIGH ACHIEVERS: Students at Maidstone Girls Grammar achieved the fourth best SATs results in the county

education Chris Wells said: "It is really pleasing to see how Kent pupils have risen to the challenge and are getting ahead of the national average at level six, and with such a large proportion achieving exceptional levels."

"For schools like MGGS this is a welcome ratification of all the hard work that teachers and pupils do to raise standards across the county."

The boroughs mainstream secondary schools can also hold their heads high with The Astor of Hever Community School, Aylesford School, Holmesdale Technology

College, The Malling School, St Simon Stock, Maplesden Noakes and Valley Park Community School all scoring above an average of 30 per cent in the exams.

Schools in Tonbridge and Malling achieved the highest results this year. The Judd School in Tonbridge and Skinners in Tunbridge Wells both show with average scores of above 45 per cent, closely followed by Tunbridge Wells Girls Grammar School with 44.4 per cent.

Thanet's Marlowe Academy was polled as the worst performing school with an average SATs score of 25.4 per cent.

**OPEN EVENINGS
MARCH 2008**

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 Monday 10 March Oakwood Park Centre, Maidstone
 Wednesday 12 March City Way Centre, Rochester
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Acoustic performance awaits you on **the ether**

■ BY GARETH ARNOLD

WITH heartfelt lyrics and intricate guitar work, do-it-yourself singer-songwriter Jon Woode has created quite a stir from his garden shed.

Loosely described as folk, Woode's varied style has invited comparisons with Nick Drake, receiving rave reviews for his latest album *Into The Wildness*.

The Ether – our broadband TV channel www.yourkenttv.co.uk's new showcase for the county's musical talent – this week features two songs performed by the acoustic artist.

He said: "I found it hard trying to pigeon-hole myself into a few genres when I will probably not stick to them. I write in whatever style or genre I have running through me at that particular moment."

"I don't like the idea of being restricted in creativity, I don't set out to write a song in a certain style, I just write it as it comes. I love the old-fashioned sounds, songs and recordings and also love to hear the new. I am not a lover of highly produced music and only wish to record the true music that I create."

Despite using a bespoke Atkin guitar, hand-built by Canterbury luthier Alistair Atkin, Woode makes a point of using simple recording techniques to maintain a raw edge.

He said: "I am not really into the over-produced sounds that flood our air waves. My first album was just a diary of songs, first takes recorded by me on a Tascam Pocket Studio 5 using only the built-in mic. I have moved on since then, but not far. I now have a Tascam eight-track and a nice Rode K2 mic.

"Although the equipment is a lot better than it was, it is still very basic and the studio I've built in my garden has no sound-proofing and



VARIETY: Jon Woode writes music in the style running through him at that moment

is shared with my wife's easel and paintings.

"Hopefully this will all go towards capturing a sound that is a realistic version of what I do and will be an album I'm happy to put out."

Woode performs live at various festivals and acoustic nights around the county, with notable appearances at Lounge On The Farm near Canterbury, and the city's muso-haven Orange Street Music Club. As well as formal

gigs, he also enjoys the odd appearance at open mic nights, including the renowned sessions at The Barge in Gillingham.

His love of folk music stemmed from five years spent in north Cornwall, where he lived and performed prior to moving to Kent.

Woode is currently working on his new album, *Fields Of The Senses*, which is expected in the summer.

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MY LIFE IN THE MAKING: The band play live for **the ether**



WHITE HORSE: Open mic night throws up some great talent



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Faye steps into the shoes of Eva

Former pop star brings the extraordinary story of American singer to life on stage

THE magical talent of tragic star Eva Cassidy is the subject of acclaimed musical *Over The Rainbow*.

Starring Faye Tozer, formerly of chart-topping pop group Steps, it explores the extraordinary story of the American singer who became a huge star only after her early death. The play features 27 of Cassidy's best-loved songs, including her signature tune about hope and life in a mystical land.

Born in February 1963, Cassidy was surrounded by music from the very start. Her father Hugh was a big fan of artists like Pete Seeger, Buffy St Marie and Ray Charles, infusing his daughter with a love of music and singing. He taught her to play the guitar and she was soon able to accompany herself and her three siblings, Annette, Margaret and Dan.

As a teenager she sang with local bands in the Washington area and spent a summer playing guitar at a theme park. While pursuing her love of music, she also became an accomplished artist and created paintings, sculptures and jewellery.

In 1986 she met Chris Biondo, who would help her find work as a session singer, becoming both her mentor and her boyfriend.

Her first commercial recording was made with Chuck Brown, who met her through Biondo. Originally he wanted her to record one duet for inclusion on his next album, but the pair ended up

OVER THE RAINBOW

Friday, March 14, and Saturday, March 15
Granville Theatre, Ramsgate

releasing an entire album of duets.

Over the next few years Cassidy became a popular performer in Washington, winning a number of awards for her fantastic interpretations of popular songs.

She eventually released a live album, recorded at the city's Blues Alley, but remained virtually unknown outside her home town.

In July 1996 she noticed an ache in her hips and was diagnosed with

melanoma. Despite having treatment, she died at the family home on November 2 at the age of 33.

Six months later, a compilation of her recordings was released as the CD *Songbird*. It remained in relative obscurity for two years until Terry Wogan played two of her tracks on his BBC Radio 2 show following a recommendation from his producer.

The reaction to Cassidy's versions of *Somewhere Over The Rainbow* and *Fields Of Gold* was immediate, with a camcorder video of her singing live at Blues Alley being shown on the BBC show *Top of the Pops* 2.

Songbird climbed to the top of the UK album charts and since then her posthumously-released recordings have sold some six million copies.

This poignant and moving musical has been a hit all over the UK and Ireland, as well as winning Best Production Of The Year in Holland. Led by Tozer, the talented cast of

West End performers celebrates the life and work of an unforgettable artist.

To book tickets, phone the box office on 01843 591750. For more details, visit the website at www.granvilletheatre.com.



HIT MUSICAL: Faye Tozer stars as Eva Cassidy in *Over The Rainbow*

yourmaidstonegetaways

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Cruising tour is ice cool

BY LOUISE CAHILL

YOU might not imagine celebrated Italian film director Federico Fellini to be automatically associated with cruising – but the presence of the great man looms large on the giant 85,000-tonne Costa Atlantica superliner.

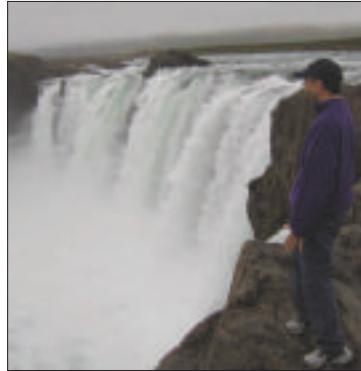
Our cabin was on Deck Eight And A Half, named after one of Fellini's most famous films. The deck directly below, Ginger and Fred, recalled a Fellini TV movie and other deck names inspired by his movies include La Strada, Roma and La Dolce Vita.

Once on board, the link begins to make sense, for the bold interior design of Costa Atlantica blends classical Italy with more contemporary ideas. The lobby space, spanning eight decks, feels a bit like a cathedral at sea.

The other eye-catching feature about Costa, which really moved into mainstream cruising when the founding Italian family sold out to Carnival and Airtours (the UK operator no longer with us) back in 1997, is the prices.

While Costa has dramatically upgraded the quality of its fleet, value for money remains a strong point and some of its cruise-only prices come in under £100 per day. Money saved is often splashed out on luxury spa facilities which are another Costa hallmark.

For our voyage to the Norwegian Fjords, we found our own way to Amsterdam as an



WINTER WONDERLAND: Stunning water features are mixed in with volcanic landscapes and snow

overnight stay in this delightful Dutch city made the ideal curtain-raiser to our voyage.

Ahead of us lay some ports with a rich nautical history – Bergen, Hellesylt, Geiranger, Alesund in Norway; Torshavn on the Faroes, Akureyri and Reykjavik in Iceland, even the remote Scottish ports of Lerwick and Invergordon – before Amsterdam again.

Although Costa claims to promote 'Cruising Italian Style', its passengers are drawn mainly from Western Europe. English is quite rarely heard and often squeezed out by Italians, Spaniards, French and Germans.

Although cabin space on board Costa

Atlantica isn't vast, no fewer than 620 of its 999 cabins have private balconies. Dotted around a dozen decks, you'll also find three restaurants, 12 bars, a three-deck theatre, casino, disco and more. Not to mention three swimming pools (one with a retractable roof), a water-chute and four jacuzzis.

The itinerary was fascinating and included gorgeous Geiranger and a tour to the top of Mount Dalsnibba: the midnight sun was another attraction.

Despite her vast size, Atlantica navigated her way through some tight twists and turns in locations only usually heard of on weather warnings: Bailey, South East Iceland, Fair Isle and Faroes.

The volcanic basalt of the Faroe Islands is thought to be 60 million years old. We docked at Torshavn, supposedly named after Thor, the Norse god of thunder.

The skies were certainly not something we were used to. During summer, it's traditional for the Faroese to climb a 2,500m mountain to experience sunset and sunrise with just an hour in between.

Iceland, first colonised by Irish monks in 870AD, is a joy of glacial activity, volcanoes and memories of Viking sagas. We were then thrilled by Dimmuborgir with its lava formations, followed by the geothermal field of hot springs at Hverir with its belching mud pools.

The price was worth it just for the sky near Surtsey, a volcanic island and the southernmost point of Iceland. Photographing the striped red and yellow display, I lingered on our balcony – it would have been an insult to the sky to sleep.

FACT FILE: ICELAND

Time difference	As UK time
Currency	Krona (approx 130 to £1)
Capital	Reykjavik
Population	313,376
Language	Icelandic
Religion	National Church of Iceland
Climate	Cool temperate

Holiday details

Louise Cahill was a guest of Costa Cruises, which offers a 13-night voyage from Amsterdam to Iceland and Norway's Fjords in June 2008 from £1,669, cruise-only full fare.

Costa's Pronto Price for early bookers can cut prices from around £200 per person.

Costa reservations: 0207 940 4499 and www.costacruises.co.uk

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Margot Zeller is a bright, razor-tongued short story-writer who creates chaos wherever she goes. She makes a surprise journey to the wedding of her free-spirited sister Pauline, but from the moment she meets Pauline's fiancé, Margot starts to plant seeds of doubt about the union.

UNTRACEABLE (18)



Within the FBI there's a division dedicated to investigating and prosecuting criminals on the internet. There, Special Agent Jennifer Marsh has seen it all... until now. A tech-savvy internet predator is displaying his graphic murders on his own website - and the fate of each of his tormented captives is left in the hands of the public: the more hits his site gets, the faster his victims die.

SEMI-PRO (15)



This outrageous comedy is set in 1976 against the backdrop of the maverick ABA - a fast-paced, wild and crazy basketball league that rivalled the NBA. Will Ferrell plays Jackie Moon, a one-hit wonder who used the profits from his chart-topping song to achieve his dream of owning a basketball team. But Moon's franchise is in danger of folding when the ABA announces plans to merge with the NBA. If they want to survive, they must do the seemingly impossible - win.

Uma finds her romantic side

■ BY KATE HODAL

FOR most women, finding and settling down with your one true love can be a soul-searching, life-long activity that you only hope ends in success.

But for Uma Thurman in her latest movie role, finding a husband is a bit like catching a bus: you spend forever waiting for the right one to show up, and then two arrive at once.

The Accidental Husband, Uma's latest foray into the world of rom-com, sees the 6ft beauty playing Dr Emma Lloyd, a pragmatic but uptight radio relationship expert and talk-show host who's engaged to the affable and ever-so-English Michael (Colin Firth) when she discovers that - on paper - she's already betrothed to some guy named Patrick.

While the so-called 'love doctor' might spend her days dispensing advice to the lonely and bewildered women of New York, when it comes to knowing what real love is, she does not have a clue.

After carelessly advising one caller to ditch her hubby-to-be, Emma finds herself the victim of a spurned and hot-headed fireman (played by Grey's Anatomy star Jeffrey Dean Morgan), who decides the only way to cure his broken heart is to hack into city records and make Emma already married - to him.

"Emma is at the height of her career and she's about to be married to a great guy," explains Uma, looking gorgeous in a black suit and plunging gold top for the London premiere of the film (which she rode to in a London fire engine).

"She thinks she has it all and then this 'accidental husband' comes in and wrecks everything. I just love the vulnerability of someone who thinks she knows everything and then gets taught the lesson of her life. And I could

VIEW THIS PREVIEW

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completely relate to her: super successful, sure of herself in practically every way, and clueless at the same time."

Uma spent the last 10 years developing this film, which she also produced, after finding that all the roles she was being offered were a bit ditz (think The Truth About Cats and Dogs), a bit serious (remember Dangerous Liaisons?), or a bit too active (try Kill Bill).

"I loved everything about this script, from the title, to the set-up of the plot, to the dialogue. I saw it as the perfect way to express my sense of humour and I thought: I can do this - I'll just cast myself."

Uma's own love life has been in and out of the newspapers after her six-year marriage to her Gattaca co-star Ethan Hawke, with whom she has two children - Maya Ray, 9, and Levon



LOVE DOCTOR: Uma Thurman is back in rom-com role

Roan, 6, ended in 2004. Since then she's been linked to New York hotelier Andre Balazs and is now rumoured to be engaged to Elle Macpherson's former partner, French financier Arpad Busson.

While she may have felt some affinity with the romantic but confused 'love doctor', Uma downplays the importance of advice and finds it more important to make decisions for yourself.

"I don't think anyone takes advice," she says, sporting a mysterious blue-stoned ring on her wedding finger. "Everyone just needs to talk about their issues. They don't actually ever want to take advice, but it's a great launching point for gossip."

THE ACCIDENTAL HUSBAND
Certificate 12

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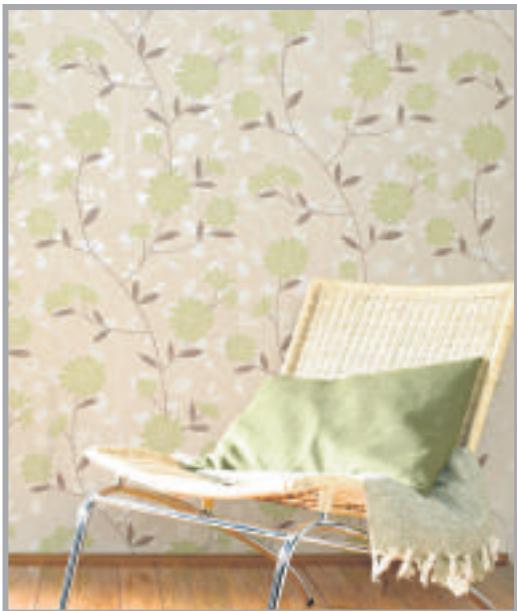


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MAIDSTONE SHOPPING

**Be the belle of them all
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A NEW collection of pretty pink and red raspberry clothing has been launched at a popular department store.

House of Fraser in Fremlin Walk has unveiled the new Belle collection by Oasis – a pretty range of occasional wear in raspberry and salmon pinks with matching accessories – which is perfect for spring days.

The range includes pencil skirts and bandeau tops, plus wide leg trousers and camisoles for day time chic.

For more details visit www.fremlin-walk.co.uk.

**Get sexy for bargain
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LINGERIE store La Senza is offering customers great deals on selected underwear and night clothes.

The outlet in Fremlin Walk has fantastic deals on striking styles of sexy knickers, bras and nighties, as well as many other items.

Shoppers can also stock up on sensible pyjamas with the 'practically a princess' range, which is on offer as a buy one get one free deal. For more information see in store or visit www.lasenza.co.uk.

**Time to get a new look
for the festival season**

STORES are already looking to the summer season and stocking everything a festival girl could need.

New Look has launched its Global Festival range with ethnic dresses, sandals and scarves a key theme at it's The Mall Chequers store.

Eye-catching pieces in the collection include a moon buckle brown vintage belt for £8, white and blue lace placket tops at £8, and crease front denim shorts from £18. Tank tops are a steal in white and peach from just £4.

**Next stop for great
deals on kids' clothes**

MORE than 100 items of stylish children's clothing are included in a massive sale at a high street retailer.

The huge winter sale of Next has kids clothing starting from as little as £4 and accessories from £2.50 at the stores in Fremlin Walk and The Mall Chequers.

Adults can also benefit from hundreds of items on offer from jeans, to T-shirts, to hats and scarves.

For more information see in store.

**Get the latest music
from this year's Brits**

FOR the best British music of the year pick up a copy of Brits Hits 2008 – launched after the star-studded awards ceremony last week.

The CD, which includes hit songs from the likes of Amy Winehouse, Rihanna and Mika, is now available at the Woolworths store in Week Street.

Home-grown heroes like Take That also feature along with star acts Plain White T's, 50 Cent and Justin Timberlake plucked from across the pond.



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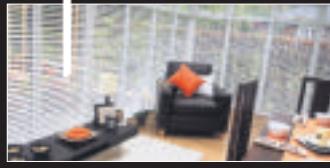
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YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY TOM BETTS

LIFE IN COLD BLOOD

BBC1, 9pm, Monday
THE PALACE
ITV1, 9pm, Monday

THERE are some things in life that really can make your jaw hit the floor.

Images of deep space taken from the Hubble Space Telescope and, more amazingly, my pal Pete who last week managed to form a coherent sentence after necking more than ten pints of Stella Artois.

But, until you've seen a snake swallow an antelope whole, tearing its skin apart in the process, these things tend to pale into insignificance.

I refer to David Attenborough's triumphant return (isn't it always?) with the brilliant, Life in Cold Blood.

Last Monday, we encountered the snake in its many forms as the show managed the impossible, to make us feel sympathetic for one of the world's most reviled species.

Educational, visually stunning and surprisingly, for a programme about reptiles, occasionally touching.

At 81, and with more enthusiasm for his subject than a man half his age, Attenborough is still the consummate wildlife presenter. The whispering voice of amazement and authority.

Yet, despite all the accolades, never does he encroach on the true stars of the show, the animals themselves and even the crew get a look-in with a 10-minute slot that shows how they set about capturing such fine footage.

Making the blood run cold, but in an entirely different manner, is ITV1's The Palace.

Just rattling the old thumb along the remote at 9pm is a truly chilling experience. For here is a show that



CLASS: Sir David Attenborough knows his stuff

makes you actually glad that the commercial break exists.

This right royal rubbish must be manna from heaven for the BBC as Attenborough and co have been trumping the ITV effort by more than two million viewers on Mondays.

The first episode held a certain curiosity...

The King had died unexpectedly and the next in line to the throne was to grudgingly step forward to do his duty.

For a moment it was all quite exciting, well, until we found out the heir to the throne was little more than a sulking, catalogue model with a fine line of neatly pressed shirts and sticky-out pocket handkerchief thingies.

Yes, it was a bit of a let down, from which this jumped up Dallas-like nonsense never really recovered.

Still, I suppose it could be worse; the next night Hotel Babylon was on.

Answers to all of this week's **timeout** quizzes can be found on our website



YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

YOU'RE ready to fight for your rights. Someone who has repeatedly tried to undermine you is in for a big surprise. A loud confrontation will expose them for the bully they really are. A friend may betray you this week. Perhaps they're uncomfortable with what you're doing.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762

TAURUS (Apr 20-May 20)

IT'S time to spread the word about your accomplishments, even though you're a pretty humble person. If you don't show off your talents, you could be passed over for the perfect job. You've been blessed with incredible talent, but you've also got to sell yourself to the public.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753

LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

W O R K I N G independently boosts your self-esteem. You're starting to realise just how resourceful you really are. It may be best to keep your opinions to yourself between now and early May or you could unintentionally offend someone you need to befriend.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531765

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

YOU know what you want and you're going to go for it big time. Developing a creative project is another possibility. You're bound to hit some snags along the way, but the final result will be breathtaking. Don't let people put you off, they don't know how determined you can be.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759

PISCES (Feb 19-Mar 20)

CONFRONTING a boss or expert will be a scary prospect, but an exhilarating one too. It's hard to argue with someone with your moral authority. You're embarking on an exciting new period, and need an updated image. Friends may be startled by this change.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763

GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)

THE next two months bring a rare opportunity to increase your income. You cut through obstacles like a hot knife through butter. Don't let a powerful sexual attraction distract you from your goals. You need to focus on your dreams. A fresh career opportunity is coming your way.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754

CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

YOUR need to succeed drives everything you do this week. Unfortunately, this quest could drive a wedge between you and a loved one. Don't be so quick to cancel plans to make room for a business meeting. The chance to take a glamorous vacation could be on the cards.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755

LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

IT may be necessary to put in extra hours at work. You hate to burn the candle at both ends, but there's no other way around this situation. A normally understanding loved one won't like it either. You'll have plenty of opportunities to be together once this busy period ends.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531756

VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

WORKING with a group will be much more rewarding than going solo. Granted, you're among the most capable members of the team. That doesn't mean you can't benefit from the experience, though. A romance could be on the horizon so follow your instincts.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

A CHANCE to air family issues comes your way. It feels wonderful to get these feelings off your chest. You've never been the type to keep a polite silence. Be prepared for things to get ugly. Fortunately, you know it's better to be straightforward than maintain a pleasant façade.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

YOUR words hold extra gravitas and importance over the coming weeks. Standing up for others and empowering people to make their own decisions is the best use of your time. Your passion will turn the tide in your favour. Sometimes raw emotion can be most effective.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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BIRTHS

ALLEN

Daniel and Pamela of Canterbury are the proud parents of George Noah Kai Allen. George was born on 18th February 2008 weighing 3.65kg (8lb 1oz).

BAKER

Gabrielle and Andrew Baker of Maidstone celebrate the birth of their daughter Eva Elizabeth Baker on 16th February 2008.

BAX

Lawson James born on 13th February 2008, weighing 8lb 1oz. Son to Paul and Paula in Ramsgate, and brother to Olivia.

CHAPPLE

Emi Chapple born on 19th February 2008, weighing 6lb 15oz. Daughter to Wayne Chapple and Leanne Smith.

CLAMP

Brandon Harvey born on 12th February 2008, weighing 8lb 2oz. Son to Dean and Joanne Clamp in Ramsgate.

EDWARDS

Connor Robert born on 14th February 2008, weighing 10lb. Son to David and Kiley in Margate. A brother to Rose.

GALE

Michelle and Paul Gale of Broadstairs celebrate the birth of their daughter Jessica Erin Gale on 25th January 2008. A sister for Aimee.

GLOVER

Luke and Lindsay Glover of Margate celebrate the birth of

their son Bradley Chris Glover on 3rd February 2008.

GREEN

Daniel Sean David born on 14th February 2008, weighing 8lb 2oz. Son to Sean and Tracey in Ramsgate.

HACKER

Gareth and Georgie Hacker of Crockham Hill are delighted to announce the birth at home of their baby son Albert John born 29th January 2008 weighing 8lb 0oz.

HOLDAK

Elizabeth and James Holdak of Sevenoaks are delighted to announce the birth of their son Jude Llewellyn Holdak born 20th February 2008 weighing 8lb 15oz.

HOPKINS

Alex Leslie Paul born on 16th February 2008, weighing 7lb 6oz. Son to John and Emma Hopkins of Maidstone.

JARVIS

Nichola and Keith of Margate celebrate the birth of their son Oliver William Jarvis on 16th February 2008.

LANE

Jennifer May born on 14th February 2008, weighing 6lb 12oz. Daughter to Helen Amos and Stephen Lane in Maidstone. Our special little angel.

LOVE

Jane and Nigel are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Emily Rose on 7th February 2008 weighing 6lb 3oz.

Kenzie born on 19th February 2008 weighing 6lb 8oz. Son to Neil and Tanya in Margate.

MERKAJ

Sajmir and Margaret of Canterbury are very proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Sienna, on 19th February 2008.

MOORES

Brandon born 15th

February 2008, weighing 7lb 5.2oz.

Son to Claire and Rod in Margate Kent.

MORRIS

Sam and Amanda Morris of Tunton are delighted to

announce the birth

of their beautiful

daughter Victoria

Olivia on 10th

February 2008

weighing 9lbs

5oz. Son to Jodie and

Paul in Thanet.

RATCLIFF

Bethany-Jo born on 12th February 2008,

weighing 6lb 12oz.

Daughter to Joanne

and Shaun Ratcliff in

Dover.

MUNRO

Jennifer Summer

born on 13th

February weighing

8lb 4oz daughter to

James and Noreen.

Robert and Lisa of Canterbury are delighted to

announce the birth of their son, Oscar

David Rawson, on 11th February 2008.

ROBINSON

Kevin and Nicola are pleased to announce the birth of their son Oscar Reg, born on 13th February 2008, weighing 9lb.

NUNN

David and Louise are delighted to

announce the birth

of their beautiful

daughter Emily

Grace on 22nd

January 2008

weighing 8lb 14oz.

SKINNER

Charlie Thomas born on 24th February 2008 to proud

parents Dave and

Lisa of Tunbridge Wells.

SMART

Jennifer and Neil are proud to announce that Aidan is now the big Brother of Sophia Rose Smart, born on 28th

January 2008.

PALMER

Kenzie born on 19th

February 2008

weighing 6lb 8oz.

Son to Neil and

Tanya in Margate.

Matthew and Gemma of Tunbridge Wells are pleased to

announce the birth of their beautiful

daughter Millie Sarah Lilian on 21st

February weighing

9lb 10oz. A sister for

Kai, Emily, Jake and

Billy.

SPURWAY

Barry and Angela are delighted to

announce the birth

of their daughter Dorothy Abigail

Spurway. A sister for

Connor, Dorothy was

born on the 16th

February 2008 at 10.13pm and

weighed 7lb 12oz.

STONER

Leo Andrew born on 15th February 2008, weighing 7lb 10oz.

Son to Gabriela and Michael in

Broadstairs.

STRONG

Layne & Katie (Collins) of Bromley are proud to

announce the birth of their beautiful

daughter Amelia Grace on January

30th.

PALMER

James and Tanja of Sevenoaks are delighted to

announce the arrival

of Chloe on 16th

February 2008

weighing 7lb 12oz and

smiling.

PRZETACZNIK

Mariusz

and Anna

of

Broadstairs.

TAYLOR

Wendy and Colin of

Margate celebrate

the birth of their

daughter Melody

Terri Katherine

Taylor on 11th

February 2008.

WATTS

Ronnie James born

on 13th February

2008, weighing 9lbs

5oz. Son to Jodie and

Paul in Thanet.

RATCLIFF

Bethany-Jo born on

12th February 2008,

weighing 6lb 12oz.

Daughter to Joanne

and Shaun Ratcliff in

Dover.

RAWSON/CARLSON

Robert and Lisa of Canterbury are delighted to

announce the birth

of their son, Oscar

David Rawson, on

11th February 2008.

WILSON

Jack Edmund born on the 12th February 2008, weighing 8lb

10oz. Son to Sophie

of Folkestone.

WILLIAMSON

Macey born on 10th February 2008, weighing 6lb 14oz. Daughter to Joanne Williamson and Richard Walton in Dover.

WILSON

Keira Wilson born on the 15th February 2008 weighing 7lb 1oz. Daughter to Hannah and Scott Wilson in Dover.

WOODS

Matthew and Gemma of Tunbridge Wells are pleased to

announce the birth of their beautiful

daughter Millie Sarah Lilian on 21st

February weighing

9lb 10oz. A sister for

Kai, Emily, Jake and

Billy.

DEATHS

ANDERSON

Kathleen Ellen Anderson of Eccles passed away peacefully at The

Heart of Kent

Hospice on 24th

February 2008 at the

age of 86.

STONER

Brenda Bloomfield passed away suddenly on 23rd

February 2008. Sadly

missed by all and a much loved mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Night night God bless.

BROWN

Paddy (Patricia Evelyn) of Canterbury died peacefully on 24th

February 2008.

A loving aunt who will be sadly missed by all who knew her. The funeral is to be held on Wednesday March 5th at Barham Crematorium at 4pm.

February 2008. A service of thanksgiving will be held on Tuesday 4th

March at 2.30 at St Dunstans Church,

Canterbury.

Donations to Pilgrims

Hospice, Canterbury or

R.N.L.I.

ENNER

Ted (Edward George) Jenner of Canterbury formerly

of Newington, passed

away after a long

illness on 22nd

February 2008. Ted

will be very sadly

missed by all of his

family. Funeral to be

held on 5th March at

1.15 at Newington

Church and 2pm at

Bobbing

Crematorium.

Family flowers only,

but if desired

donations to Lord

Whiskey Animal

Sanctuary C/o High.

LENTON

Audrey passed away at the Kent and Sussex Hospital on 23 February. A dearly loved Mother and Grandmother who will be very

sadly missed.

BUCKINGHAM

Carole of Beltinge passed away 24th February 2008 after a long illness

Beloved wife of John

Mother of Tony

Tracey and Christina

much loved

Grandmother

Funeral service to be

held on 5th March at

3.20pm at Barham

Crematorium.

WATTS

Ronnie James born on 13th February 2008, weighing 9lbs

5oz. Son to Jodie and

Paul in Thanet.

WILSON

Jack Edmund born on the 12th February 2008, weighing 8lb

10oz. Son to Sophie

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WILSON

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PROPERTY NEWS

Remortgage figures on the increase

ABOUT half of all mortgage activity last month resulted from home-owners seeking remortgages, it has emerged following recent studies.

The figures will fuel concern of a slowdown in the housing market, particularly among first-time buyers.

Figures from the British Bankers' Association, drawing on data from all major UK banks, show an increase in both new mortgage approvals and remortgaging.

The study is the most extensive of its kind undertaken and widely regarded as a barometer for the housing market.

There was a 17 per cent rise in remortgages, with 79,016 home-owners refinancing their properties.

Remortgage activity now makes up 49 per cent of all activity, the highest proportion since the BBA began collecting data in 1997.

But mortgage approvals were still up on the month before, rising to 44,288.

BBA director of statistics David Dooks said: "Higher gross mortgage lending in January largely reflected very strong remortgaging activity, as borrowers sought out the best deals available."

France and Spain lose out to Austria

AUSTRIA is gaining prominence as a destination for a second home because properties are often cheaper and easier to buy than in other European countries.

The central European state is gaining ground at the expense of more traditional areas such as France and Spain.

Also surging ahead in popularity are the emerging eastern European destinations of Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania and Slovenia.

Experts say the Austrian property market is experiencing a change as it moves away from providing for holiday-makers and enters the second-home market. Prices in the country have remained stable in recent years and the number of homes changing hands each year is relatively low.

However, new EU regulations have made mortgages more readily available, encouraging buyers from abroad.

Property prices in Austria are now rising at between six and seven per cent a year and the country has been included in the list of 20 best locations to secure positive returns by the BBC's A Place In The Sun show.

Now's the time to snap up a bargain

■ BY NICK AMES

WHILE much of the UK recorded a monthly fall in new home prices in January, conditions could be ideal for bargain hunters.

According to property specialist Smart NewHomes.com, developer incentives and competitive prices mean now is an ideal time for new home buyers to secure a bargain ahead of anticipated price rises in the spring.

The South East and London remain the most expensive areas in which to buy, but property in Scotland is also increasing in value ahead of the rest of the country.

The new homes market typically suffers from a slow start to the year and the 0.5 per cent fall in average prices recorded in January is no cause for alarm, say experts.

However, while average prices over the last quarter have flattened, they are expected to pick up as more buyers return to the market with renewed confidence – fuelled by interest rate cuts expected over the coming months.

David Bexon, of SmartNewHomes.com, said: "Despite a slow start to the year, prices are likely to pick up as buyer confidence returns, fuelled in part by a series of further interest rate cuts which I would expect to see as early as March. However, the current dip in prices across the new homes market makes now an excellent time to buy."

Other experts do not share the optimism. Capital Economics, the consultancy led by one of the City's leading economists, Roger Bootle, has long been predicting that the UK house price boom will come to an end.

This past year, studies indicated that prices would rise by only 3.5 per cent, and as it turns out, they could be on target. But citing a slowing economy, expensive prices, stricter lending and more mortgage defaults, Capital Economics has revised predictions for 2008.

The consultancy's Ed Stansfield said: "We expect house prices to fall 5 per cent next year and a further 8 per cent in 2009, wiping out the gains of the last 18 months.

"The long-overdue housing market correction now appears to be under way."



BUYING: Mixed opinion on house prices sees some experts suggesting now is the time to buy, others are more cautious

JULIE MADDOCKS DISCOVERS HOW SOME SEASIDE TOWNS ARE ENJOYING A RENAISSANCE, SEE THE CLIP @ propertyforkent.co.uk



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Computer generated image of plot 44

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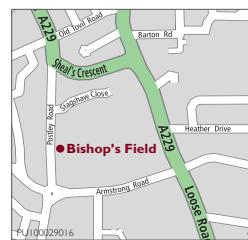
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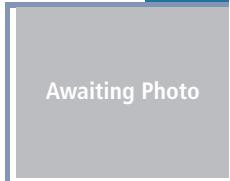
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- 2 Bedroom Semi Detached Cottage
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Kingfisher Meadow £850pcm



- Executive Apartment, River Views
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Sandling Park £850pcm



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- Large Modern Kitchen

Boughton Monchelsea £925pcm



- 3 Bed Chalet Style Bungalow
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- Rear Garden, Parking, Garage

Maidstone £850pcm



- 3 Bed End Of Terrace, Gardens
- Off Road Parking For 2-3 Cars
- Master En-suite Shower Room
- Good Location

Vinters Park £1,000pcm



- 4 Bedrooms, All Good Size
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£250,000

Leybourne



- 4 Bedroom Detached Home
- En-Suite To Master Bedroom
- No Forwarding Chain

Enquire Larkfield

£315,000

Harrietsham Village



- Stylish Top Floor Apartment
- 1 Bedroom With Gated Parking
- High Specification Throughout

Enquire Lenham

£149,995

Woodlands



- 4 Bedroom Detached
- Popular Location
- Vacant Possession

Enquire Maidstone

£359,995

Snodland



- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- En-Suite To Master Bedroom
- Extend Accommodation

Enquire Snodland

£259,500

Kings Hill



- 3 Bedroom Detached House
- Two Reception Rooms
- Own Driveway And Garage

Enquire West Malling

£299,995



Headcorn



- 3 Bedroom Link Detached House
- Well Presented Throughout
- Kitchen & Utility Room

Enquire Headcorn

£250,000

Leybourne



- Attractive 2 Bedroom Home
- 2 Allocated Parking Spaces
- Cul-De-Sac Location

Enquire Larkfield

£174,995

Lenham Village



- Three Bedroom Cottage
- Edge of Village Location
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- Allocated Parking
- En-Suite To Master Bedroom

Enquire Snodland

£219,995

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- Immaculate Throughout

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- No Forward Chain

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- No Forward Chain

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- Off Road Parking

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Enquire West Malling

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- Well Presented Throughout
- Garage Plus Parking Area

Enquire Lenham

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- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Conservatory To Rear
- No Forwarding Chain

Enquire Larkfield

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- 5 Bedroom Detached Property
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- En-Suite To Master Bedroom

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- Village location



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- Far reaching views



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- Lounge
- Kitchen/Dining Room
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- Low maintenance gardens
- 2 allocated parking space



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MOTORS NEWS



Jodi's Great Wall charity challenge

SERIOUS illness in her family sparked a charity challenge for Lipscomb sales administrator Jodi Sexton.

Based at the motor group's Chatham, Canterbury site, Jodi is raising funds for Children with Leukaemia by joining the Beijing Olympic Trek Open Challenge in August, trekking the Great Wall route in temperatures of 27-32 C.

Jodi's cousin Andrew was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, which is why she chose the charity. Jodi is funding the trip herself so that all sponsorship goes to the charity. Pledges can be made via Jodi at Lipscomb at 0845 338 9902 or at www.Bmycharity.com/jodischinatrek.



Skoda draws green line

SKODA has launched a version of its all-new Fabia supermini officially capable of averaging around 70mpg.

Kent commuters to London by road will also like the fact that CO2 emissions of just 109g/km of CO2 exempt it from the capital's congestion charge.

The 1.4 TDI Fabia GreenLine - £11,490 and £12,140 in hatch and estate form respectively - achieves this miserly feat through aerodynamic panels fitted beneath the chassis, replacement of the spare tyre with a puncture repair kit and raising the front bumper by 35mm.



Lexus V8 is gunning for its German rivals

LEXUS wants to inject a more potent image into its Lexus IS compact executive saloon series, which tends to be overshadowed by German rivals.

Toyota's luxury arm has unveiled a potent V8 version due here in April and dubbed the IS-F in a clear effort to attack the BMW M3, Mercedes C55 AMG and Audi S4 performance flagships. Apart from a pronounced V8 'burble' the car will stand out with distinctive styling such as double vertically stacked twin exhausts.



POWERFUL: The VXR is certainly a muscular beast, but whether or not the boy racers it will appeal to can afford it is another matter entirely

Crouching Sumo has finesse and power

IS the Corsa VXR a muscular athlete or muscle-bound lout?

A pumped-up bodykit and fat alloys suggest the latter, but a spell behind the wheel argues the former.

But is the question irrelevant when most of the turbocharged pocket rocket's fans are too young to afford to buy, run and insure it?

It might be a small hatchback, but it costs £15,625; enthusiastic use of its 189bhp and 0-60mph in less than seven seconds decimates the official 35.8mpg average; and the insurance is group 16.

Those who actually can afford to run such a car are likely to prefer something more grown-up or wearing a classier or trendier badge.

On the other hand, is it that the car's really a halo model? drawing attention to the overall Corsa line-up and especially, the cheaper and more civilized yet still racy Corsa SRi with VXR accoutrements?

Probably, but the VXR still deserves judgement on its own merits. It certainly looks the part with showy alloys and body kit, although the dumpy rear looks like a crouching sumo

ROAD TEST

VAUXHALL CORSA VXR

■ BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

wrestler with its wheel arch vents and diffuser. The interior is smart thanks to alloy highlights and fabulous Recaro front seats – these might not give much, but the contoured comfort is startling.

Climb past the Recaros – their wide shoulders make this harder than standard Corsa seats – and you also have enough rear space to imagine some young dads persuading 'er indoors that it really is a "good motor for the family, luv".

Couple this with decent ride quality and cruising refinement and the VXR is a hot hatchback that you really can live with on a long journey, yet it also 'walks the talk' to go with its looks.

The car has tenacious grip without unnecessarily hard suspension, plus good steering feedback and a tidy flat cornering stance.

The impressive engine power also feeds efficiently to the road without the steering wheel fight of the bigger Astra VXR, and links well with a well-spaced and slick six-speed gearbox.

Pumped up it might be, but the Corsa VXR is no lout.



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USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

FORD FOCUS ESTATE



FORD'S estate spin-off from the original futuristic Focus design was not the most convincing looker, but proved to be an effective load lugger with all the driving virtues of its sister. Secondhand bargain hunters will find plenty of engine and trim choice at affordable prices – many companies bought these to put reps and their samples on the road – but check for high mileage and abuse. If you can afford them, Focus Mk II estates make more elegant used buys.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

VAUXHALL MERIVA



IT has not enjoyed the new car sales success of its Zafira big brother, but used car buyers know the value of the Corsa-based Vauxhall Meriva. It's compact yet still has a higher driving position; it is tall and spacious yet handles with car-like sure-footedness. Mix in a good range of engines and trim – including a scorching VXR version – and you start to see why this flexible five-door MPV is sought after on the used market.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

CITROËN BERLINGO MULTISPACE



POSTMAN Pat jibes come thick and fast, but you can have the last laugh with a miserly yet capable diesel version of this van-based workhorse. Along with its Peugeot sister – the Partner Combi – it's pleasant to drive, cruises well and has two rear sliding side doors for easy access. The legendary power and refinement of the diesel engine is another attraction to tempt families, dog lovers or those who need something simple and roomy to suit a sporty lifestyle.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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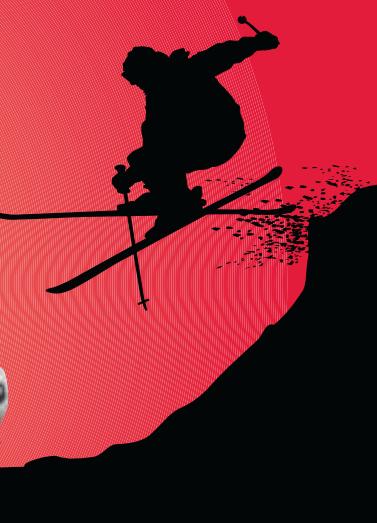
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Any offer of appointment will be subject to a Criminal Records Bureau enhanced disclosure.

For further information or an informal discussion, please contact Mark Walsh on 01634 336236 or 07789 988165 (mobile). Closing date: 14 March, 2008.

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Closing Date: 14th March 2008

For further details and a job description, please contact Linda Taylor, Business Manager, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent ME2 3SP (Tel: 01634 338224)



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Tel: 01474 534544 headteacher@cecil-road.kent.sch.uk

Investors in People Healthy Schools

Headteacher: Mr Andrew Sparks

Deputy Head L4-10

(Salary negotiable)

A wonderful opportunity to join a very successful school. We are a popular oversubscribed two-form entry school. Ofsted judged the school to be outstanding/very good in all areas and, due to the retirement of the present holder, the Governors will be appointing a new Deputy Head for September 2008.

The new Deputy should:

- Have strong leadership and management skills, which will enable us to move forward, combining excellence and enjoyment within the curriculum;
- Be an exemplary classroom teacher who has a commitment towards collaboration, team-working and inclusion;
- Be able to manage change and inspire others;
- Have excellent communication, interpersonal and organisational skills;
- Have expertise in assessment and experience of data management as a tool for raising standards;
- Have a proven track record of ICT, management skills and financial experience would be an advantage.

For further information and details please contact the Headteacher.

Visits welcomed.

Please visit our website, www.cecil-road.kent.sch.uk

Closing date: 14 March

Interviews: 25/26 March



All Saints Sure Start Children's Centre has the following vacancies based at our centre in Magpie Hall Road, Chatham.

Building Operations Manager Ref: CS08995

Grade C2. Salary £18,907 – £25,320

37 hours per week.

With responsibility for everything from health, safety and security to repairs, maintenance and cleaning – you will ensure that our building and grounds are a safe and pleasant place for our staff and the 700+ visitors that use the centre every week. With a team of administrative staff and caretakers, you will maintain the high quality of support services that everyone has come to expect at our busy centre. Previous experience of managing buildings and staff is essential, as is a flexible and innovative style.

Catering Assistant – Healthy Eating Community Café Ref: CS09005

Grade D1. Salary £12,291 – £15,842

37 hours per week.

You will be involved with the day-to-day running of the café, including preparing and cooking food, stock control and serving. Other duties will include handling cash and cleaning the café and kitchen areas. You will also help provide meals to our on-site, full day-care facility and prepare and deliver refreshment orders to the rest of the centre. Previous experience of working in catering required.

Administrative Assistant Ref: CS09015

Grade D1. Salary £12,291 – £15,842

37 hours per week.

As part of a small and busy administrative team, you will undertake varied duties to support staff in the centre. These will range from reception work and taking notes at meetings to filing and maintaining office systems. Good customer service skills and administrative experience are essential. Any offer of appointment will be subject to a Criminal Records Bureau enhanced disclosure.

For more information on any of these posts, please contact the centre on 01634 338833.

Closing date for all applications is Friday, 7 March 2008.

Interviews are likely to take place at the beginning of April.

All posts will be open to part-time and job share applicants unless designated as an exception.

To apply

visit www.medway.gov.uk

call **01634 333333** Mon to Fri 8am – 8pm, Sat 9am – 1pm.
01634 332843 24-hour answerphone.

email jobs@medway.gov.uk quoting the appropriate reference.

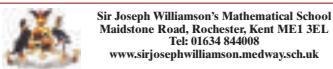
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An 11-18 Boys' Grammar School of 1000+ pupils with 300 in the Sixth Form (including 40 girls)

**ARE YOU A WELL QUALIFIED SCIENCE GRADUATE?
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A CHANGE OF CAREER?
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN TEACHING?**

We have a vacancy on the Graduate Teacher Programme (in conjunction with Canterbury Christ Church University) beginning in September 2008.

We can offer you an opportunity to work with bright, talented youngsters in a school where you will receive full support as you achieve Qualified Teacher Status.

For more information and an informal discussion please contact Mr Eliot Hodges (Assistant Headteacher) at the school.

Closing date for applications - Monday, 10th March 2008



Require

Sales Representative for the South East
Competitive rates of pay including car

UK Platforms provides a full range of powered access equipment for hire. As a result of the continuing growth in our market we are looking to expand our sales team in the South East. Operating from our Crawley location, we are looking for a self-motivated sales person with an outgoing personality, excellent communication skills and the ability to work well under pressure.

Responsibilities will include primarily winning new business as well as supporting and developing existing customers. You will have a sales background not necessarily in a plant hire environment although this would be an advantage.

For more information about UK Platforms go to www.ukplatforms.co.uk If you are interested in this position please send your CV to:
**Ben Cross, UK Platforms Ltd,
Unit 3 Dialog, Fleming Way, Crawley, RH10 9NQ**
Or email to bencross@ukplatforms.co.uk
Closing date for applications: Friday 14th March 2008



KENT WILDLIFE TRUST
Charity Reg. No. 239992

Kent Wildlife Trust is the county's leading nature conservation organisation with a membership of 28,500 and an increasingly important voice in the future of Kent's natural environment.

Three new posts have been created to meet the challenge of rebuilding Kent's biodiversity. They will play critical roles within the Trust and provide real and exciting opportunities for professional and personal development, as well as making a genuine and lasting difference for wildlife.

**Conservation Officer
(Policy & Planning)**

Salary range £21,806 - £25,872

You will take responsibility for the Trust's work on Local Development Frameworks, major development proposals and other strategically important development issues, where the opportunities are already in place to make real gains for wildlife.

Closing date for applications - 20th March 2008

Living Landscapes Team Leader

Salary range £21,806 - £28,581

You will be responsible for taking forward the Trust's work on promoting and delivering the restoration of biodiversity at the landscape-scale. The post will have line management responsibilities and will involve co-ordination with other Wildlife Trusts in the South East region.

Closing date for applications - 17th March 2008

Living Landscapes Project Officer

Salary range £19,096 - £23,161

You will be driving forward the delivery of landscape scale biodiversity restoration projects within identified project areas, bringing together stakeholders, co-ordinating and facilitating the work of project partners, and working to make real change happen on the ground.

Closing date for applications - 17th March 2008

For full details and application form please contact:
Dot Hughes on 01622 662012
email: dot.hughes@kentwildlife.org.uk
visit: www.kentwildlife.org.uk

KWT has a positive approach to equality and welcomes applications from all sectors of the community.

Embedded Software Engineer



TV One Ltd is a leading UK manufacturer of video and VGA conversion products for the consumer and broadcast industry.

Software Engineer:

- Educated to a good degree in a numerate subject
- Able to grasp concepts quickly & focused on delivery
- Min. 5 years experience in product oriented software design
- Self-starter with good communication skills; strong team player

Skills Set:

- Multi-threading & Multi-tasking software design skills
- Very Strong C programming for embedded systems
- Knowledge & Experience of ARM processors (ARM7/9)
- Comfortable with software driven hardware debugging & at home with hardware
- Knowledge of TCP, UDP, DHCP, Multicast Internet Protocols
- Knowledge of Video Processing desirable

To apply contact:

Amanda Mallett, TV One Ltd, Unit V, Continental Approach, Westwood Industrial Estate, Margate, Kent. CT9 4JG
Tel: 01843 873300 Fax: 01843 873301

Mail to: recruit.europe@tvone.com <http://www.tvone.eu>

TRAIN AS A HOME INSPECTOR

Up to 2 million properties being sold every year now need Home Information Packs which must include an Energy Assessment carried out by thousands of newly trained Home Inspectors or Energy Assessors. More of these new professionals will be needed later this year for the rental sector when Government targets around 1.8 million properties being let in also have Energy Assessments. Thousands more new Home Inspectors will also be needed if Government confirm Packs must include a currently optional Home Condition Report.

This creates new career opportunities and people are required now to train as Home Inspectors in their spare time. No previous surveying experience is required.

Current fee earning expectancies are £600 to £800 for Energy Assessments and £200 to £300 for Home Condition Reports with up to 15 Assessments or 6 Reports estimated to be able to be carried out in a week, subject to size of property and the number supplied.

Applicants should apply now for a limited number of training places at the Government's ABLE approved Home Inspector Training centres near London and in Bristol, Birmingham and Manchester. The Course mainly consists of 7 separately bookable one-week modules, taken over up to 10 months. If this long is needed and most people can therefore train around their current commitments.

On qualifying you are awarded the Government's ABLE Home Inspector Diploma and are able to carry out Assessments and Reports obtained by yourself or for other Pack Providers or, depending on the market share gained, for own in-House Pack Provider in return for a course subsidy. Once qualified, further short courses and qualification opportunities, now being researched, may also be available creating other possible income streams.
Ref: HIT01D



Call up to 7pm for an interview: London **0208 335 1700**



www.canterbury.ac.uk

Canterbury Christ Church University is the largest centre of higher education in Kent for the public services - notably teacher training, policing, health and social care - and is a significant provider of programmes in a wide range of academic and professional areas.

CANTERBURY CAMPUS

NURSING & APPLIED CLINICAL STUDIES

Principal Lecturer - Research, Scholarship & Knowledge Transfer

£41,545 to £44,074 per annum

We are a dynamic department with big aspirations looking to appoint a Principal Lecturer to coordinate the ongoing development of research capacity and knowledge transfer activities and take a lead role in mentoring staff research capability.

With a good understanding of the health and social care sector, you will have experience of managing and delivering funded research projects, a strong personal record of research, possess excellent analytical and people management skills, as well as a commitment to collaborative and interdisciplinary working. We welcome applications from a broad range of disciplines including health and social care, social sciences, education, business and health services research. A doctoral qualification is essential. This is an excellent opportunity to help shape an emerging area of research growth and would suit an ambitious individual keen to join a dynamic and forward thinking organisation.

For formal enquiries please contact Carrie Sanders, Head of Department on +44 (0)1227 782649 or e-mail carolin.sanders@canterbury.ac.uk
Ref: PL/NAC/77.

Interview date: 10 April 2008.

REGISTRY

Graduation & Awards Manager

£25,134 to £26,666 per annum

You will be responsible for the planning and execution of graduation and award ceremonies across the University. This involves the preparation and delivery of seven Cathedral based ceremonies, six in Canterbury and one in Rochester, as well as a number of campus-based events. Cathedral ceremonies are highly complex events involving up to 1,500 dignitaries, staff, students and guests and therefore require meticulous planning.

Qualified to first degree or equivalent, you will possess experience of organising large public events and administration within an HE/FE environment. Proven interpersonal skills, clear and concise oral/written communication skills, report writing skills, a commitment to accuracy and the ability to work effectively under pressure whilst remaining calm are all essential to the role. Ref: GAM/REG/77.

CONFERENCE SERVICES

Temporary Conference Services Supervisor

**(1 May 2008 to 30 September 2008)
£15, 300 per annum**

The Department is responsible for the provision and marketing of conference and event facilities at the North Holmes Campus and at St Martin's Priory in Canterbury.

You will join this busy team and assist the Conference Co-ordinator with the co-ordination of all bookings during the summer vacation for residential conferences, group bookings, language schools, individual lets and summer schools as well as bookings of university meetings and seminars.

As an enthusiastic and energetic team player you will also need to have experience of working in the conference and hospitality industry and be willing to contribute to the development of departments services within and outside the University. Ref: CSS1/HOS/77.

CAMPUS CATERING SERVICES

Breakfast Chef (25 hours)

(Fixed term until 31 July 2008)

£13,739 pro-rata per annum

You will be a Chef who can demonstrate the ability to produce breakfast daily for the University's students, staff and visitors.

You will hold the City & Guilds 7061/2 or NVQ Level 2/3 in Food Preparation and Cooking and hold a current Certificate in Food Hygiene (awarded in last 2 years). Hours are mainly 7 am to 12 pm Monday to Friday but with rostered weekend working during the summer conference season of July, August and September Ref: BC/CAT/77.

HALL PLACE ENTERPRISE CENTRE, HARBLEDOWN

General Assistants (Two Posts)

(37 hours & 20 hours)

£12,041 to £13,368 per annum (pro-rata if part-time)

Working directly for the Café Supervisor these are key support posts providing an excellent customer focused catering service in our facility located in Harbledown.

You will have worked in a previous catering environment and be keen to be part of close working team who strive to deliver an excellent catering service. You will be conscientious and demonstrate an enthusiasm for working in a busy catering environment. You will need to be flexible in your working hours and be able to work the occasional Saturdays and evenings with due notice. Ref: GA3/CAT/77.

CANTERBURY & MEDWAY CAMPUS

ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS -

Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Diagnostic Radiography

£27,466 to £40,335 per annum

We are looking for a radiographer to join our enthusiastic team in delivering our programmes on our Medway and Canterbury campuses. Radiography here has national and international recognition for clinical reporting, a strong reputation for medical imaging, a building expertise in forensic radiography and a strong record in interprofessional education.

You will be an HPC-registered radiographer with a relevant degree and be interested in extending your professional profile. The post may be part or full time.

For informal discussion, please contact Lee Bolton, Radiography Professional Lead on 01227 767700 ext 3069 or lee.bolton@canterbury.ac.uk
Ref: RAD6/AHP/77.

Closing date: 17 March 2008.

Application forms and further details are available from www.canterbury.ac.uk. Alternatively please call 01227 782475 (answerphone) or e-mail hr@canterbury.ac.uk quoting appropriate reference. No agencies.

Closing date unless stated 14 March 2008.

Shepway and Ashford 14-19 Planning Forum Strategic Co-ordinator

Salary £50,000+ pa
(Leadership spine 16-20 or Soulbury equivalent)

Location Kent, South East

Contract Type 2 year fixed term in the first instance

Kent's 14-19 Partnership is managed jointly by Kent County Council, the Learning and Skills Council and Connexions Kent and Medway, together with education providers including schools, FE Colleges, Higher Education Institutions and Work Based Learning Providers. This partnership operates at local level through 9 Planning Forums, two of which cover the areas of Ashford and Shepway.

Each Planning Forum is responsible for driving forward the government's 14-19 reforms to encourage more young people to continue learning for longer and gain the skills and qualifications they need to progress into further education or employment. Central to the reforms are the 14-19 Diplomas which the Strategic Co-ordinator will play a pivotal role in. The primary focus at this stage is delivery of Diplomas but in due course the Co-ordinator will be the driving force behind the planning forums to ensure an appropriate range of provision is available for all young people in the Shepway and Ashford areas to meet the national 14-19 entitlement.

We are seeking to appoint a committed, innovative and motivated individual. You will be able to demonstrate excellent leadership skills, have good project management skills and successful experience of working in partnership with multiple organisations. Applicants must have knowledge and understanding of 14-19 developments nationally and locally, excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to work independently. The work will be based between Shepway and Ashford, flexibility and willingness to travel is essential.

To obtain a full job description please email Katherine.daynes@lsc.gov.uk or telephone 0845 019 4152.

The closing date for applications is Monday 24th March 2008 at 12 noon. Interviews will be held during April 2008.



Medway Adult Learning Service has the following vacancies at various locations throughout Medway:

Curriculum Manager 0.4fte Ref: COM0906L

Sector 1, Health, Public Services and Care, and Sector 7, Retail and Commercial Enterprise. LNFA scale point 4 – 15. Salary £19,847 – £31,954 pro rata.

Curriculum Manager 0.6fte Ref: COM0907L

Sector 8, Leisure, Travel and Tourism. LNFA scale point 4 – 15. Salary £19,847 – £31,954 pro rata.

You responsibilities will include developing and reviewing an exciting and innovative programme of courses to meet current needs of Medway residents and monitoring delivery to ensure that targets are met and effective quality improvement is implemented.

Applicants should have substantial teaching experience and qualified teaching status. A good knowledge of quality standards in adult learning is required, together with relevant management experience.

For an informal discussion relating to job ref. COM0906L, please contact Sohini Patel on 01634 338343 or email sohini.patel@medway.gov.uk

For an informal discussion relating to job ref. COM0907L, please contact Hanife Dacosta on 01634 338456 or email hanife.dacosta@medway.gov.uk

Learning Support Assistant – Skills for Life: Literacy and Numeracy. Two Posts. Ref: COM0910L

Grade D2 (NJC points 12–21). Salary £14,492 – £18,430 pro rata. Two hours per week.

Applicants must have a good general education including GCSE English and Maths or equivalent, and C&G Level 2 certificate in Adult Learner Support, or equivalent.

For an informal discussion, please contact Chris Osborne on 01634 338423.

To apply for the positions above

visit www.medway.gov.uk

call 01634 333333 Mon to Fri 8am – 8pm, Sat 9am – 1pm.

01634 332843 24-hour answerphone.

email jobs@medway.gov.uk

quoting the appropriate reference.

11-18 Mixed 1400 Pupils
April 2008
Graduate Teacher Programme
Science

The successful candidate will be joining a Science Department which is well resourced and has a strong team of Specialist Teachers. The department resources are well maintained and plentiful, all laboratories having their own smart boards and projectors. We aim to maintain high standards from our students at all times, by leading by example.

Maths

The successful candidate will be joining one of the strongest teams in the school, with students successfully being entered for and achieving GCSE, vocational and post 16 qualifications.

We are committed to your professional development and provide a first class induction programme along with rewarding career opportunities. We provide excellent high quality training and development at all career stages. To help us accomplish this we are involved in research and development projects which are supported by good facilities and access to new technologies.

We are a successful second phase Technology College, RM Pioneer School and recently named as one of the most improved specialist colleges in England and Wales. In September 2007 we launched our brand new Virtual Learning Environment with all of our 1400 families, students, staff and local schools. This is a period of development for the school with a number of major initiatives under way.

Closing date **21st March 2008**
Interviews 25th – 28th March 2008

Further details are available by telephone or email from:
Miss S Spratley, Pent Valley Technology College, Surrenden Road, Folkestone, Kent CT19 4ED, Tel: 01303 277161/Fax 01303 279342
Email: samantha.spratley@pent-valley.kent.sch.uk

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

KOS MEDIA (PUBLISHING) LTD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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19. Any delivery claims made by the advertiser or discount vouchers published within the print or online media of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd and any action as a result of the media owner or otherwise is the sole responsibility of the advertiser. Any claims resulting from the use of any media owner's services will be the responsibility of the advertiser.
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- c. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the due date, the media owner reserves the right to charge interest on all overdue balances calculated on a daily basis at the rate of two per cent above the minimum lending rate of National Westminster Bank Plc from time to time in force.
- d. Notwithstanding the terms and conditions of the service, the sum of money due to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (for whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.
- e. The Advertiser will be liable for all costs incurred by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in the recovery of debts not paid by the due date.
- f. Payment may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.
21. At such time as which KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to meet the above credit terms.
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Effective from March 2008

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Tel 01303 817040 Fax 01303 817004
Email: info@kosmedia.co.uk



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www.kentnews.co.uk

To apply for the positions above

write to **Chris Osborne, Medway Adult Learning Service, Rochester Centre, Eastgate, Rochester, Kent ME1 1EW.**

call **Chris Osborne 01634 338423**

email **christine.osborne@medway.gov.uk**
quoting the appropriate reference.



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achievement

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Canterbury College

Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opened in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

Section Manager Construction Crafts

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £32,808 per annum
Post Ref: 08/12/KOS

We require a dynamic individual to manage the Construction Crafts provision in the College. It is essential to have experience of working in at least one area of wood, brick or trowel.

The successful candidate will have excellent leadership skills, good oral and written communication skills, a strong focus on quality and experience of teaching.

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above post is Monday 17 March at 12 noon.
Interviews to be held on 3 April 2008

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Sports Hall and Gym
- Proximity to Mainbus / Train Stations
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Close to City Centre
- Staff Discount Scheme



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Candidates must have excellent QuarkXpress skills and be competent at using Photoshop. You will be able to spot a typo at 100 paces and be able to write attention-grabbing headlines.

- To apply, send a CV and covering letter to: Dave Hobday, Head of Subbing or email dave.hobday@kosmedia.co.uk.

KOS Media
Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth
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achievement

development

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Canterbury College

Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opened in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

Temporary Section Manager Sports, Leisure, Travel & Tourism

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £32,808 per annum
One year temporary post to cover maternity leave
Interviews to be held on 2 April 2008

Post Ref: 08/27/KOS

Lecturer Construction Crafts

37 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 per annum
Post Ref: 08/18/KOS

Lecturer Motor Vehicle

Full and Part time hours available, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 per annum (Pro Rata for part time posts)
Post Ref: 08/28/KOS

Supply Lecturers are required in the following areas:

Various hours available, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum
Science/Chemistry (to teach ND Science/AS/A levels)

Post Ref: S/Sci/C/KOS

AS/A level Archaeology

Post Ref: S/Arc/KOS

AS/A level Economics

Post Ref: S/Eco/KOS

Supply Lecturers required to teach at the Corporate IT Centre in the following areas:

Various hours available, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum
Desk Top Publishing, Web Design, Programming, Computer Aided Design, IT Maintenance, Networking

Microsoft Office to Advanced level (using VISTA and Office 2007)

Please specify your area of expertise in your application form

Post Ref: S/Corp/KOS

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 17 March at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Sports Hall and Gym
- Proximity to Mainbus / Train Stations
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Close to City Centre
- Staff Discount Scheme



Canterbury College is an equal opportunity employer

achievement development experience employability

Canterbury College

Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opened in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

Registry Manager

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £36,365 per annum
Post Ref: 04/16WKOS

Interviews to be held on 28 March 2008

Infrastructure Team Leader (Computing Support)

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £23,651 per annum

Post Ref: NTL1/KOS

Senior Nursery Officer – Education and Curriculum

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £16,364 per annum

Post Ref: 08/04/KOS

Pre 16 Learning Support

25 hrs per week, 38 weeks term time.
Salary starting from £16,364 pro rata per annum

Fixed term post ending 31 August 2010

Post Ref: 07/17/KOS

Trainer Demonstrator Sport & Leisure

9.25 hrs per week, salary starting from £18,375 pro rata per annum

Post Ref: 08/26/KOS

Learning Support - Basic Skills & ESOL

18.5 hrs per week, 38 weeks term time.
Salary starting from £16,364 pro rata per annum

Post Ref: 06/52/KOS

Temporary Senior Administrator for Work Based Learning

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £18,375 per annum

Temporary post up to 1 May 2009 to cover maternity leave

Post Ref: ATC1/KOS

Temporary Train to Gain Administrator

18.5 hrs per week, salary starting from £14,535 pro rata per annum.

Temporary post up to 16 January 2009 to cover maternity leave

Post Ref: 07/83/KOS

Supply NVQ Assessors required in the following areas:

Various hours available, salary range £17,727- £25,418 pro rata per annum

Early Years

Post Ref: NVQ/EY/KOS

Play work

Post Ref: NVQ/PW/KOS

Supply Recreation Assistant

Various hours available, salary starting from £14,535 pro rata per annum

Post Ref: 5/RA/KOS

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 17 March at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Sports Hall and Gym
- Proximity to Mainbus / Train Stations
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Close to City Centre
- Staff Discount Scheme



Canterbury College is an equal opportunity employer



34 Dumpton Park Drive
Broadstairs, Kent
CT10 1BY

All appointments
are subject to a
CRB check

All shortlisted
applicants will be
expected to visit
the school before
interview.

Bradstow School
is an equal
opportunities
employer



BRADSTOW SCHOOL

Bradstow is a fascinating and unique residential school for children between the ages of 5 & 19, set in 13 acres of parkland just a few hundred metres from the sandy beaches of Broadstairs. We seek to meet the needs of children with autism and severe learning difficulties, and have achieved national recognition for our developments in Communication and Behaviour Management.

SCHOOL BUSINESS MANAGER

**£38,404 - £40,962 per annum -
37 hours per week - All Year Round**

The Governing Body is seeking a School Business Manager, who will be well qualified and have sound management experience, not necessarily in education. To meet this challenge, the successful candidate will have a recognised management qualification, ideally with at least three years' experience in middle management. In addition, they will have:

- A proven track record of leadership, and the ability to be a leading member of a Senior Management Team
- Sound experience of financial management and budgetary planning and control
- Knowledge of human resources management
- An ability to identify, research, develop, cost and implement new initiatives
- Knowledge of change management and project management
- Experience of IT networks and applications
- A high level of oral and written communication skills.

Relocation expenses may be available.

For an application form and information pack please call 01843 862123 during normal office hours (9a.m. to 5p.m. Mon to Fri), or email personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk.

Please note that CVs will not be considered.

Applications should be received no later than 12 noon, Friday 7th March 2008.

Selection events will take place on 25th March and 1st April 2008

To
advertise
in this
section



**01303
817040**

Work Experience Co-ordinator

Salary - £14,500 - £15,500pa

Medway Education Business Partnership is a charity which arranges work experience and other events and projects for Medway students, involving local businesses.

We are seeking to recruit a Work Experience Co-ordinator to work in our very busy team, supporting schools in their work experience, enterprise and work related learning activities.

A detailed job description is available on request.

You must be confident, extremely organised in your work and capable of working to demanding deadlines. Attention to detail whilst managing conflicting priorities will be essential; a telesales background would be useful.

Own transport is essential.

Please apply, enclosing your CV to:
Mrs Dawn Jansen, Office Manager,
MEBP, c/o BAE Systems, Rochester, Kent ME1 2XX
dawn@mebp.org www.mebp.org 01634 204995

Closing date for applications Wednesday 19th March 2008



Finance Manager

Starting salary £57,507, with progression through contribution related pay to £67,081 per annum

Sessions House, Maidstone

As an 'excellent' Local Authority, Kent has a dynamic and high profile Children, Families and Education Directorate. The Finance Unit is an innovative and fast moving function, with highly motivated staff, ambitious in their drive to improve services to schools and service managers. An experienced and effective finance manager, you will work closely with the Director of Finance and Corporate Services to deliver financial excellence. Your outstanding technical skills will allow you to convey complex financial information to schools and Directorate budget managers. Your communication skills will allow you to work with Members, The Directorate Managing Director, Directors and other senior officers on a regular basis.

You will show strong leadership skills and the ability to motivate and manage excellence in others. You will also be committed, flexible and show a natural affinity for team working. Ref: CFE/08/0048.

Closing date: midday, 7 March 2008.

Clerking Agency Manager

Starting salary £19,572 with progression through contribution related pay to £22,268 pro rata

Term Time only - hours are negotiable to the right candidate.
Office based in Maidstone, The ability to travel to all parts of the county will be required

It will be your responsibility to oversee our countywide clerking service - making sure that it runs as efficiently and effectively as possible ensuring we are meeting all the standards in our service level agreements. You will co-ordinate recruitment, manage staff deployment, promote the service and contribute to its development and growth.

Along with an NVQ3 (or equivalent) qualification in Business Administration or Management, and a good knowledge of governing body procedures you will also be an experienced clerk to a governing body. Couple this with strong ICT skills, a confident approach, a flair for managing conflicting priorities and a willingness to undertake some of your hours during the evenings; this could be the beginning of a rewarding career. Ref: CFE/08/0062

Closing date: midday, 10 March 2008.

The Alternative Curriculum Co-ordinator in Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley have the following vacancies to work part-time.

Personal Assistant to the Alternative Curriculum Co-Ordinator

Starting salary £16,221 with progression through contribution related pay to £17,842 pro rata

18.5 hours per week

Joynes House, Gravesend

You will be supporting this management post within the Childrens' Services Clusters in the area. The co-ordinator is a KCC Manager responsible for placing 'hard to place' children in education provision. You will ideally be able to provide evidence of the ability to work effectively in such a supporting role: this includes dealing with parents, other Childrens' Services agencies and schools but not directly with young people. Ref: CFE/08/0061

Teaching Assistant

Starting salary £13,619 with progression through contribution related pay to £15,440 pro rata

20 Hours per week Term Time only
Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley

You will be supporting disengaged and disaffected KS4 students in the area.

You will have to provide evidence of effective working with disengaged KS4 students and have a proven commitment to curriculum innovation. Ref: CFE/08/0059

The above two posts are subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

For an informal discussion about the above 2 posts, please contact Joanne Kendall on 01474 544582.

Closing date for the above two posts: midday, 6 March 2008.

To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904.

Please quote the appropriate reference number.



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Ashford branch Sales Coordinator Payroll Administrator Recruitment Consultant	Emma t: 01233 634242 £17k Negotiable Negotiable	Ashford Ref: KOSAS6191 Ashford Ref: KOSAS6200 Ashford Ref: KOSAS9856
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Bromley branch Cashier Sales Consultants Team Administrator	Vikki t: 0208 4608100 £18k - £20k £15k £21k - £23k	e: bromley@hrgokent.co.uk London West Wickham Ref: KOSBRO98 Eltham Ref: KOSBRO114
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Chatham branch Management Information Analyst Sales Executive	Anita t: 01634 811494 Negotiable £15k +OTE up to £35k	e: chatham@hrgokent.co.uk Chatham Ref: KOSCH768 Maidstone Ref: KOSCH761
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Dartford branch Method Statement Author/Administrator Estimator Test Engineer	Grace t: 01322 277555 £24k £25k - £30k £20k	e: dartford@hrgokent.co.uk Dartford Ref: KOSDA1025 Dartford Ref: KOSDA995 Thamesmead Ref: KOSDA1000
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Other branches:	Canterbury 1st Floor 24 Burgess Tel: 01227 454239	Folkestone Unit 3, Aspen House 11 West Terrace Tel: 01303 850729	Ramsgate 20 Queen Street T: 01843 591798
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www.hrgo.co.uk



Innovation
Experience
Excellence

Hadlow College is Kent's premier land-based college and one of the top three such colleges in the United Kingdom.

The College lies in a picturesque part of West Kent, with a 256 hectare campus boasting an enviable array of facilities to enable students to maximise learning and gain realistic experience of the workplace for their future careers.

A £55 million capital project is planned over the next 2 years, aimed at building the best facilities of their kind in the Country. The first phase, costing £10 million, has already started, which includes a state of the art Animal Centre at the main site.

Due to the continued increase in our student numbers and the importance we place on the health and welfare of all our students, we are expanding our Student Support Services team. We therefore have the following job opportunity based at our Satellite Centre in Spring Lane, Canterbury:

Student Services Officer

£19,123 to £21,762 p.a. (pro rata)

Part-time, term time only

We are looking for a highly motivated and enthusiastic individual to provide an enriching programme of events and pastoral care to a range of students, aged 16+.

Duties will include organising and running social, sporting, enrichment and pastoral activities, recording student incidents and ensuring appropriate action is taken as required. The role will also involve assisting with the administration and coordination of student transport for activities in and around Canterbury but also at the main site in Hadlow.

Candidates must have excellent organisation, administration and communication skills, an understanding of student needs and previous experience of working with young adults or a similar client group is essential. A sport or youth work qualification would be useful, as would some knowledge of welfare systems.

This role is part-time working two days per week, or equivalent, term time only.

To receive an information pack and application form please telephone the Human Resources Department on 01732 850551 or e-mail 'jobs@hadlow.ac.uk'.

The closing date is Monday, 17th March 2008.

Visit Hadlow College at www.hadlow.ac.uk

Hadlow College is a committed equal opportunities employer.



Landex

Highway Engineer

£24,444 to £28,824

Environment

Shepway District Council requires a highly motivated and enthusiastic Highway Engineer to join the Transportation team. You will be responsible for the effective management of the district's highway responsibilities and will be expected to prepare, advertise and implement traffic regulation orders in relation to parking across the district. You will also be responsible for the maintenance and replacement of streetlights. This is an exciting time to join as we are currently designing a parking scheme for Folkestone Central and you will have the opportunity to shape the development of this and many other new projects.

You must have:

- Substantial relevant post qualification experience in a Highway engineering/transportation/parking environment.
- HNC/HND in Civil Engineering or equivalent.
- Be able to demonstrate a good understanding of local authority highway matters.
- Be self reliant and confident in dealing with complaints and queries relating to parking service, street lights and various highway issues.
- Be able to demonstrate a flexible attitude to work and that you are a good communicator, both written and verbal.

For an informal discussion, please contact Frederick Miller, Transportation Manager on 01303 853207

For application details download at www.shepway.gov.uk or email jobs@shepway.gov.uk alternatively call our 24 hour answer-phone service on 01303 853481.

The closing date for applications is Friday 14 March 2008.

Folkestone



Shepway District Council is an Equal Opportunities Employer and welcomes applications irrespective of race, colour, age, sex or disability.



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MEDWAY TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Teacher

Cliffe Woods Primary School
KS 2
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full time and permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 10 March 2008

To apply/more information
Mr Tim Watson
Cliffe Woods Primary School
View Road, Cliffe Woods
Rochester
Kent ME3 8UJ
Telephone - (01634) 220822
Email headteacher@cliffewoods.medway.sch.uk

Cliffe Woods Primary School
KS 2
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full time and temporary
Term of contract: 2 terms
Required From: 21 April 2008
Closing Date: 14 March 2008

To apply/more information
Mr Tim Watson
Cliffe Woods Primary School
View Road, Cliffe Woods
Rochester
Kent ME3 8UJ
Telephone - (01634) 220822
Email headteacher@cliffewoods.medway.sch.uk

Barnsole Junior School
Two KS2 Teachers
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full time and temporary
Term of contract: 1 year
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 7 March 2008

To apply/more information
School Office
Barnsole Junior School
Barnsole Road
Gillingham
Kent ME7 2JG
Telephone - (01634) 852983
Email office@barnsole-jun.medway.sch.uk

Stoke Community School
KS 2
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full time and temporary
Term of contract: 2 terms
Required From: 21 April 2008
Closing Date: 20 March 2008

To apply/more information

Mrs Carolyn Cassetta
Stoke Community School
Lower Stoke, Rochester
Kent ME3 9SL
Telephone - (01634) 270268
Email headteacher@stoke.medway.sch.uk

Twydall Infant School

Year 1
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full time and permanent
Required From: 21 April 2008
Closing Date: 25 March 2008

To apply/more information
Mrs S Fedosiuk, Headteacher
Twydall Infant School
Twydall Lane
Gillingham
Kent ME8 6JS
Telephone - (01634) 231761
Email headteacher@fairviewprimary.medway.sch.uk

Headteacher

Maundene School

Job Ref: EDT 990
Full Time and Permanent

Salary: £20-L26 £55,782-£64,611
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 14 March 2008

To apply/more information
Mrs A Milne, Headteacher
Walderslade Primary School
Dartlets Road, Walderslade
Chatham
Kent ME5 8BJ
Telephone - (01634) 861660
Email headteacher@walderslade-pri.medway.sch.uk

SEN

Elaine Primary (Chalklands Opportunity Centre)
SEN

Salary: MPS/UPS + 2 SEN allowance

Part time and Permanent

Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 29 March 2008

To apply/more information
Lynne Garnham, Headteacher
Elaine Primary School
Elaine Avenue
Strood
Rochester
Kent ME2 2YN
Telephone - (01634) 718057
Fax - 01634 290191
Email headteacher@elaine.medway.sch.uk

Elaine Primary (Chalklands Opportunity Centre)

SEN

Salary: MPS/UPS + 2 SEN allowance

Part time and Permanent

Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 10 March 2008

Deputy Headteacher

Fairview Community Primary

Salary: LS 10 - 14 £43656-£48138
Full Time and Permanent

Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 14 March 2008

To apply/more information

Fairview Community Primary
School

Debbie Willis, Headteacher
Drewry Drive, Wigmore
Gillingham
Kent ME8 0NU
Telephone - (01634) 338710

Email headteacher@fairviewprimary.medway.sch.uk

Assistant Headteacher

Walderslade Primary School

Salary: LS 3 - 7 £36,708 - £40,590

Full Time and Permanent

Required From: 1 September 2008

Closing date: 20 March 2008

To apply/more information

Mrs A Milne, Headteacher

Walderslade Primary School

Dartlets Road, Walderslade

Chatham

Kent ME5 8BJ

Telephone - (01634) 861660

Email headteacher@walderslade-pri.medway.sch.uk

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Teacher

Chatham Grammar School for Girls

RE

Salary: MPS/UPS

Full Time and Permanent

Required From: 1 September 2008

Closing date: 7 March 2008

To apply/more information

Emma Chilmaid

Chatham Grammar School for Girls

Rainham Road

Chatham

Kent ME5 7EH

Telephone - (01634) 851262

Fax - 01634 571928

Email chilme01@medway.org.uk

Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School

History

Full Time and permanent

Required From: 1 September 2008

Closing Date: 12 March

To apply/more information

Ms Jacqueline Harrison

Sir Joseph Williamson's

Mathematical School

Maidstone Road

Rochester

Kent ME1 3EL

Telephone - (01634) 844008

Email harrisonj@sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk

Rainham School For Girls

Mathematics Teachers

Full Time and Permanent

Salary: MPS/UPS

Required From: 1 September 2008

Closing Date: 10 March 2008

To apply/more information

Ms Jacqueline Harrison

Sir Joseph Williamson's

Mathematical School

Maidstone Road

Rochester

Kent ME1 3EL

Telephone - (01634) 844008

Email harrisonj@sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk

Head of Department

Greenacre School

Subject Leader English

Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR 1b (£9,981)

Full Time and Permanent

Required From: 1 September 2008

Closing date: 10 March 2008

Chatham South School

English

Full Time and permanent

Salary: MPS/UPS

Required From: 1 September 2008

Closing Date: 14 March

To apply/more information

Mrs M Chipperfield

Office Manager

Chatham South School

Letchworth Avenue

Chatham

Kent ME4 6NT

Telephone - (01634) 404277

Email chipm002@medway.org.uk

Rainham Mark Grammar School

School

MFL Spanish/French

Full Time and permanent

Salary: MPS/UPS

Required From: 1 September 2008

Closing Date: 13 March

To apply/more information

Mrs M Chipperfield

Office Manager

Chatham South

Letchworth Avenue

Chatham

Kent ME4 6NT

Phone: 01634 404277

Fax - 01634 869246

Email headteacher@chathamsouth.medway.sch.uk

SPECIAL SCHOOLS

Rivermead

General Subjects

Salary: MPS/UPS + SEN Allowance £1818

Full Time and Permanent

Required From: 1 September 2008

Closing date: 14 March 2008

To apply/more information

Mrs Karen Watkin, Office Manager

Rivermead, Forge Lane

Gillingham

Kent ME7 1UG

Telephone - (01634) 338348

Email office@rivermead.medway.sch.uk

Abbey Court Community Special School

SEN

Salary: MPS/UPS + 2 SEN points

Full Time and temporary

Required From: 21 April 2008

Closing date: 14 March 2008

To apply/more information

Linda Taylor, Business Manager

Abbey Court School

Rede Court Road

Rochester

Kent ME2 3SP

Telephone - (01634) 338224

Email office@abbeycourt.med.sch.uk

www.medway.gov.uk/teachingcareers

Any offer of employment will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check



Discover your Potential

Mid-Kent College is one of the largest providers of Further Education in Kent with ambitious plans to build on its excellent reputation.

Currently, located at four sites in Maidstone, Chatham and Rochester we will open our new £82 million campus to students in September 2009.

We are looking for individuals who will encourage learning for life and enhance our existing teams in the following areas:

Lecturer in Health, Social & Childcare Programmes Ref: P0063

Lecturer Grade B: £25,092 - £28,719

The post-holder will be involved in the delivery and teaching of Health, Social & Childcare from foundation to level 3, Edexcel/CACHE programmes. The successful candidate will have proven knowledge and experience within either Health, Social Care or Childcare environments. The department will also consider applications for candidates who are interested in hourly paid or part-time teaching. Please note the closing date for this post is Friday, 10 March 2008.

Marketing & Communications Officer Ref: P0610

Support Grade F: £23,669 - £30,027

You'll be responsible for managing all the College's internal and external communications, including writing and editing the weekly staff newsletter, press releases, and maintaining the relevant areas of the College website. Additional duties will include writing copy for advertising campaigns in a variety of media and performing other marketing activities as required.

You should educated to HND/degree standard, with excellent verbal and written communication skills and have the ability to work flexibly - often under pressure to meet tight deadlines. Experience in a similar role would be an advantage. Ability to travel between sites is essential.

Assistant Accountants

In order to strengthen the central Finance team and support the College as it progresses through a period of radical change, we are aiming to make three appointments:

Post 1 - Circa £15,000 + training package Ref: P0605

The successful candidate will work as part of the Credit Control team and will have ACCA/CIMA level 1 qualification or equivalent (e.g. AAT)

Post 2 - Circa £20,000 + training package Ref: P0606

The post-holder will work with the Financial Management team and will be a part-qualified accountant.

Post 3 - Circa £25,000 + training package Ref: P0607

Working with the Financial Management team you will have either recently qualified or be at the finalist stage of your qualification.

All applicants will need to be able to demonstrate recent and relevant knowledge and experience in finance and a good understanding of computerised systems. In return you will be expected to complete a full ACCA or CIMA accounting qualification within a specified timeframe.

Work Placement Co-ordinator Ref: P0509 (Term-Time)

Support Grade C: £16,199 - £20,324 pro-rata

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic professional to place, monitor and assess students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities in their work placements. The candidate will be able to work with minimum guidance, prioritise work effectively and demonstrate excellent organisational skills. The successful candidate will have a previous experience in a childcare profession e.g. nursery education, health visiting or social services.

College Information Services Assistant Ref: P0615

(Fixed-Term to July 2009 15hrs per week)

Support Grade A: £11,599 - £16,199 pro-rata

The post will provide assistance to the existing CIS team in auditing information systems. Ideally, the successful candidate will have 5 GCSEs at Grade A*-C or equivalent, including English and Mathematics. The department will also consider applications for candidates who are interested in term-time only working.



Technician in Hair Design Part-Time 18.5 hours per week) Ref: P0044

Support Grade A: £11,599 - £16,199 pro-rata

We are looking to recruit a highly motivated individual to provide guidance and support to students and assist with the running of various classes. The successful candidate will have good organisational and communication skills and have relevant experience within Hair Design.

Technician in Wood Occupations Ref: P0366

Support Grade B: £15,057 - £18,534

As a member of Construction Crafts team you will undertake all support duties associated with craft workshops as directed by teaching or instructing staff. You will have experience working in a relevant occupation and be able to demonstrate good organisational skills.

Administration Assistant/DSA (Rochester & Maidstone) Part-Time 18 hours per week) Ref: P0534

Support Grade A: £11,599 - £16,199

You will provide efficient and effective day-to-day administrative support and assistance to at least one department. You will have excellent administrative skills and experience using Microsoft Office applications. The successful applicant will be based at either our Rochester or Maidstone Campus therefore please state your preferred site on your application.

Sessional/Hourly Paid Facilitators Ref: HPS Basic Hourly Rate: £8.93 (£9.98 including holiday component)

Sessional Facilitators are required to work with individuals/groups of learners on curriculum support programmes devised by the curriculum staff and/or CAST Tutors. A clear empathy for learners with learning difficulties and disabilities and good communication skills are essential.

Apprentice in Administration Ref: P0594 (1 year Fixed-Term Contract)

Grade A: based on percentage of £9,631

As a member of the Business Development Team you will provide administration support to College stakeholders. The successful candidate will develop competencies to meet NVQ Level 2 Standards of performance.

All posts are full-time (37 hours per week) unless otherwise stated. The benefits of joining Mid-Kent College include generous annual leave, final salary pension scheme, flexible working and on-site gym.

All posts are subject to an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please call the Personnel department on 01634 845402 (24 hour answer machine) or e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk quoting the appropriate job title and reference number.

Closing date: Friday, 21 March 2008

Mid-Kent College is committed to Equal Opportunities and encourages applications from all sections of the community and welcomes applications from under-represented groups including black, minority ethnic and disabled people.



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Email appointments@kosmedia.co.uk

the University of Greenwich at Medway

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Ref: 00935/K3

Based in the University's Partnership Division you will undertake a range of secretarial and administrative duties to support the Partnership Division with a primary focus on the administration and development of Widening Participation activities and projects.

You will have a good level of secondary education, strong IT skills with a sound knowledge of Microsoft Access, Powerpoint and Word and the ability to work with a wide range of client groups, staff and students.

You will need experience of working to tight deadlines, be prepared to travel to other University campuses, work flexible hours at peak times and be able to work on your own initiative with a minimum of supervision.

Salary Scale: £18,702 - £21,682 per annum inclusive.

We aim to be an equal opportunities employer and welcome applications from all sections of the community.

Further particulars and application form can be obtained from the Personnel Department, University of Greenwich, Avery Hill Road, London, SE9 2UG Email: Jobs@gre.ac.uk quoting the job reference. Applications should be returned by 5:00 pm on 14 March 2008.



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Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 880 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opens in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

Supply Lecturers are required in the following areas:

Various hours available, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum

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Post Ref: SH/OS/KOS

Text & Word Processing

Post Ref: SH/TWP/KOS



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Post Ref: S3/KOS



Supply NVQ Assessors/Internal Verifiers are required in the following areas:

Various hours available, salary range £17,727 - £25,418 pro rata per annum

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Please specify your area of expertise in your application form

Post Ref: SH/Assessor/KOS



For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 17 March at 12 noon.

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REF: 470 - SCRIPTBASE/PHARMACY LIAISON WORKER – ASHFORD
Salary £16,217 - £18,430 (SCP 17-21) – 37 hours per week

This is an administrative/PR role which requires a high degree of accuracy and meticulousness as you will be responsible for providing a high quality management of all aspects of the prescription database. In addition you will provide an efficient and professional liaison service between the medical staff, keyworkers and pharmacists participating in the work of the Prescribing Service.

You will need to have good secretarial skills with experience of word processing using Word for Windows, good database experience and excellent communication skills. An ability to remain calm under pressure would be a great advantage.

If you would like more information about the post please call Mayur Derodra on 01622 690944.

Closing date: Friday 14th March 2008 at 5.00 pm
Interview date: Wednesday 2nd April 2008

REF: 472 - ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – DAY PROGRAMMES – CANTERBURY

Salary: £16,217 - £18,430 (SCP 17 - 21) pro rata – 15 hours per week (9.30 am – 1.30 pm Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri)

As a key member of the Administration Team you will be required to provide efficient and high quality administrative support to the multi-disciplinary staff team and Service Manager at KCA Day Programmes in Canterbury.

You should have sound typing skills combined with a good knowledge in using computer applications, and have the ability to input data accurately. You will also be confident in communicating with a wide cross-section of staff, external contacts and service users alike. We are looking for someone who enjoys working within a busy, often demanding environment, has the ability to prioritise, and can work on their own to tight deadlines. Experience of developing and maintaining efficient office systems and supporting a Service Manager with multiple bases would be an advantage.

If you would like to discuss this post further, please contact Linda Ranger, (Service Manager Day Programmes) on 01227 781297 or Christine Gordon (Admin Lead) on 01795 590795.

Closing date: Friday 7th March 2008 at 5:00 pm
Interview date: Friday 14th March 2008

For application forms please contact Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT, Telephone 01795 590635, Fax 01795 539351, Email marina@kca.org.uk, website www.kca.org.uk

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Interview date: 19th March 2008.

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Salary £15,440 to £19,572 pa*

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Providing a professional personnel and payroll service you'll prepare and collate personnel and payroll information and review office systems and procedures, recommending enhancements where appropriate. This is an excellent chance for a motivated individual to broaden their skills and help shape our future services. Ref: CED/08/0024

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- Wanting an exciting professional development opportunity?

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Ref: CFE/08/0056

For an informal discussion please contact Caroline Pitt, Workforce Development Manager on 01622 203800 or email: caroline.pitt@kent.gov.uk

Closing date: midday, 13 March 2008.

Interview date: 25 March 2008.

Sure Start Children's Centres are at the heart of the Government's strategy to give every child the very best start in life. Currently, there are 20 Sure Start Children's Centres across Kent, offering children under five and their families access to services and support that includes high-quality early education and day care, family support and health services, training and job information.

Building on this significant success, Kent County Council is committed to opening a further 52 centres between now and the end of 2008. We are now looking for highly motivated people who can contribute to making a positive impact for children, families and their communities.

Children's Centre Manager

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You will also have the National Professional Qualification in Integrated Centre Leadership or be willing to work towards this qualification.

Tonbridge Ref: CFE/08/0070

Interviews date: 22 April 2008.

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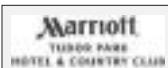
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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Chamber of commerce arranges dinner dates

KENT Invicta Chamber of Commerce is hosting a series of lunches and dinners for companies in the Maidstone, Ashford, Canterbury and west Kent areas.

Lunches will be held at Larkfield Priory in Maidstone on March 12, Broome Park in Barham on April 9, and East Malling Conference Centre on May 8. Networking evenings will take place at the Falstaff Hotel in Canterbury on March 19 and at Maidstone Museum on April 23.

Call 01233 503838 or email events@kentinvictachamber.co.uk for more details.

Corporate kart day will aid two Kent charities

BIZLINK will host a corporate charity event at Buckmore Park kart circuit on March 13.

To join in companies from Medway, Maidstone and Swale must put together a team of six racers, purchase a kart for £280 and pledge to raise a further £1,000 in sponsorship. The event aims to raise money for The Heart of Kent Hospice in Aylesford and Demelza House.

For more information call Lis on 01622 620850 or Julie on 01622 663232.

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Get the low-down on key health and safety issues impacting on business

Car benefit changes fuel firms to rethink



BUSINESSES in the county offering company car and fuel benefits to staff need to urgently evaluate their current policy before April, according to a leading firm of chartered accountants.

The Pre-Budget Report shake-up of employee car fuel benefit will take effect from April 6, which could see some people's company car tax bill rise by nearly a quarter.

But wise employees should ensure sensible management of their tax allowance and experts can advise the best way to maximise benefits.

To avoid the tax increases bosses need to look at only providing company cars for part of the year and giving staff a mileage allowance

■ BY JON COATES

for business travel instead of fuel benefits.

Richard Marshall, tax specialist at HW Chartered Accountants, said: "The car fuel benefit is set to increase considerably from April 6 this year and many workers will be clobbered with a hefty tax rise.

"With such large increases expected, employers need to sit down with staff now and determine whether they would be better off providing their own fuel and claiming a mileage allowance for business travel.

"In most circumstances, workers would be best off doing this as to make car fuel benefit financially efficient after April private mileage needs to be high – as much as 10,000 to 12,000

miles per year."

Car fuel benefit occurs when employers provide fuel cards, credit cards or vouchers to cover the total cost of private and business mileage.

And because each case is unique there is no blanket advice for everyone.

Mr Marshall added: "Working out car fuel benefit is complex and changes for individual employees due to differing levels of benefit.

"There are ways to help reduce an employee's car tax bill that we can advise on, such as only making a company car available for part of the year or only making fuel available for business travel."

For advice Richard Marshall can be contacted at HW chartered accountants, in Armstrong Road, Maidstone, on 01622 692255.



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Bulls making their charge at just the right time



STILL GOING STRONG: Alesford Bulls still have a chance of making the play-offs

Ladies eye third place after win

SUTTON Valence Ladies first XI have moved to within a point of third-placed Maidstone following a 3-1 victory against Dartford on Saturday.

The result has increased the side's chances of breaking into the top three in Kent Division 2.

This Saturday, they take on HSBC who are struggling in the bottom half of the table in ninth position. A win could see Valence move up to third.

The Ladies second XI also secured a victory with a 3-0 win against Blackheath. They are also a single point adrift of third place in division six.

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FA skills coaches developing a new style of training for county's young

Men's XI tough it out to win title

THERE were celebrations all round as Maidstone hockey men's sixth XI secured the Kent Division 5 title after winning a close match against Folkestone.

With four weeks to go before the rest of the club finish their seasons, they are the first of the club's 11 teams to secure promotion.

Their only loss this season was away at Folkestone, so Maidstone knew they would have a tough game.

Maidstone went ahead after 10 minutes, but it was not until well into the second half that they had the comfort of a two-goal lead and victory.

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GLENN PEARSON AT

glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk

CLINICAL attacking rugby proved the key to success for Aylesford Bulls, as they secured their third consecutive victory, boosting their play-off hopes.

Bulls opened the scoring after two minutes with a try from Karl Hutching.

A driving maul forced Aylesford close to the Old Dunstonians line, before a pass found the prop forward who crashed over for a try.

Dave Dorton added the extras.

The Bulls extended their lead through Olly Cargill who scored what turned out to be the try of the game.

Dorton picked up the ball 70 yards away from the try line and

RUGBY

**Old Dunstonians 7
Aylesford Bulls 24**

used his pace to break through the defence. A short pass found Cargill who had the easiest of finishes. Once again Dorton successfully kicked the conversion.

Towards the end of the half Dunstonians scored a try of their own to get back into the game, cutting the deficit to seven points.

In the second half the Bulls suffered a setback as Dorton had to be replaced due to an injury. However,

they showed character and won a penalty to increase their lead with replacement kicker Pat Norton successfully converting.

Aylesford sealed victory with a try from Andy Hall following a long kick up field. Hall grabbed the ball and slid over under the posts. Norton added the extras.

The victory keeps the Bulls in third place in London South East 3, just ahead of Deal & Betteshanger.

This Saturday they face their toughest test of the season so far, with league leaders Gravesend visiting the Jack Williams Ground.

They will hope that Dorton regains fitness and maintains his rich vein of form.



Photo STEVE TERRELL

HEADS UP: Maidstone fell to a last-minute winner on Saturday against Margate which has increased fears of the club becoming embroiled in an end of season relegation battle

Defeat leaves Stones in dangerous position

FOOTBALL

■ BY TOM HOWARD

Maidstone United 1 Margate 2

broke away down the right hand side but he sent his shot narrowly wide.

On loan Gillingham striker Andy Pugh almost put the Stones in the lead just after the hour. However, his shot from the edge of the area cannoned back off the post.

With the game looking as though it was heading for a draw, McKimm sent a delicate chip over Mullin to secure the three points for Margate.

The result forced Maidstone into the relegation battle, and they are now only three points adrift of the drop zone.

On the positive side, defender Smalling who has been on trial with Middlesbrough hopes to be playing for the Stones on a more regular basis.

Smalling said: "I am bit gutted really losing in

the last minute of the match. We just switched off for one second and were punished. I am delighted with my return. I was due to go up this week but the travelling was affecting my schoolwork. I will only be going up in half-term holidays. I will get to play more games here for Maidstone and someone from Middlesbrough will come down to watch me."

Maidstone manager Alan Walker was bitterly disappointed with the defeat and believes that after his accident last June, he may never return to the sidelines.

Walker said: "Relegation is always a fear until we are safe and it is not mathematically possible for us to go down. For that to happen we will need to string another four or five wins this season."

Former Maidstone manager Clive Walker has rejoined the coaching staff on a temporary basis, while Lloyd Hume serves a touchline ban.

• *Maidstone United were back in league action last night against Wealdstone for the match report and more on Clive Walker's return see www.yourmaidstone.co.uk.*

Bright start ends with heavy defeat

RUGBY

BY YOURMAIDSTONE REPORTER

Beckenham 30 Maidstone 10

MAIDSTONE remain fourth in London Two South, but this was a match they will want to forget, particularly after their strong performances in the previous two weeks against Jersey and Wimbledon.

The visitors started well and after just three minutes fly-half Gary Whitehead superbly changed direction to cut through the middle for the easiest of tries.

He converted himself, but if this was a soft try for Maidstone, so was the one they conceded minutes later, when a simple pick-up and drive saw hooker Eddie Redding go over.

Beckenham nudged ahead minutes later with a penalty from Garry Thomson and a combination of careless handling and the pack's failure to get to the break down quickly enough didn't bode well.

Lateral running and poor handling meant Maidstone were unusually hesitant behind the scrum and their obsession with moving the ball back into the middle instead of widening the attack brought little advantage.

The errors from both sides reached epidemic proportions, but Beckenham were more decisive and a pick-up and drive by their pack saw prop James Cleverly go over, with Thomson converting.

Maidstone reduced the margin to 10-15 when Whitehead kicked a penalty just before the interval, but it became patently clear in the second half they had failed to exploit the wind advantage.

Four counts against the head also proved costly and seven minutes after the break Thomson kicked Beckenham further ahead.

Maidstone's pack began to tire and tries from Dipple and Benham condemned them to their heaviest defeat of the season.



REALITY CHECK: The wheels came off for Maidstone in spectacular fashion as they lost 30-10 away to Beckenham

Middle East tour's a great success

CRICKET

LASHINGS chairman David Folb says his side's tour to Abu Dhabi could be the start of a long association with the Middle East.

The Maidstone-based World XI completed a week-long trip to the United Arab Emirates on Friday and Folb believes the club will become regular visitors to the Gulf.

He said: "It's the richest place on earth. We've been staying in the Emirates Palace hotel which is probably the wealthiest hotel on the planet and the hospitality has been second to none.

"They want coaching clinics, they want our auction division and they want the team to come back twice a year."

Despite fielding a side that included Chris Cairns, Dinesh Mongia and Marvan Atapattu, Lashings actually lost the opening Twenty20 game of their Tour to the Abu Dhabi Chairman's XI with two balls to spare, though Folb claims this was no surprise.

"I wasn't in the least bit shocked," he admitted. "We'd played the UAE before in England and knew how good they were. The fact that the Sheikh came to visit us meant they were taking it very seriously and it was a great honour."



SHEIKH DOWN: The Lashings World XI, pictured with Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan in Abu Dhabi

Lashings' attentions now switch to a 50-game tour of the UK this summer, starting with an away fixture at DSR Sports at Elland in Yorkshire on May 25.

"We've got to sit down and make sure this all goes smoothly and without too many glitches," Folb said. "I'm very excited by it all and the

tour has obviously helped the brand globally, though I often feel we're better known abroad than we are in England."

The first chance fans will get to see the World XI on home turf will be on June 20, when they play at Sutton Valence School against a school XI.

yourmaidstone PLAYER FOCUS



HIT MAN: Lynden Rowland has been a key player

Nomadic striker is happy with his lot

LYNDEN Rowland says he hopes to play out the rest of the career with Maidstone United, despite seeing his season ruined by injuries.

The striker sustained a knee injury after scoring in the Stones' 2-1 defeat at Tonbridge and is out until next season, but after playing for a host of clubs around Kent and the Midlands, he now hopes his nomadic days are behind him.

He said: "I have been at this club for five years now and I reckon I could end my career here. I love the fans and everything about the club."

Rowland initially joined United at Christmas 2003, when he was signed by the club's then manager Mal Watkins.

His impact was immediate. Although the team struggled around him, Rowland averaged nearly a goal a game in the Kent League. He briefly left the club when he sent managers Alan Walker and Lloyd Hume a text message on the morning of a game, telling them he'd had to move North for personal reasons.

Contribution

The duo were unimpressed, but when Rowland returned at the start of the 2005/2006 season, they quickly forgot their misgivings. He formed a lethal partnership with Mo Takaloo as the Stones won the Kent League and scored a number of crucial goals in their Ryman Division 1 South winning 2006/2007 campaign.

This year only bad luck has prevented him making more of a contribution.

He conceded: "I have struggled with injuries this year and have not played as much as I would have liked. I think I have got 10 in 15 starts and I can't argue with that."

Yet he remains hopeful that his team mates will fight their way away from the Ryman Premier Division drop zone, arguing: "There is not an awful lot of difference between the Kent league and the Ryman leagues. It is just a bigger step in the Ryman Premier. You do not get as much time on the ball and obviously better players make you up your game."

"We just need to put a run of results together and see where that takes us."

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Gillingham striker Leroy Griffiths talks about recent team bonding

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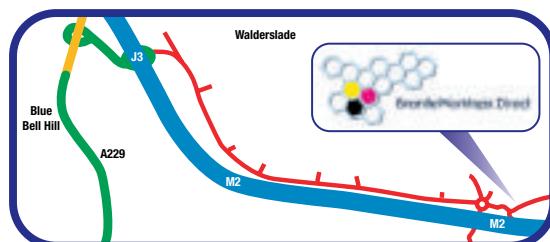
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